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Barak seeking Shahak as 'shadow defense minister'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak is expected to meet this week with former chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and offer him the No. 2 slot on Labor's Knesset list and the post of defense minister in a Barak government, senior party officials said yesterday.

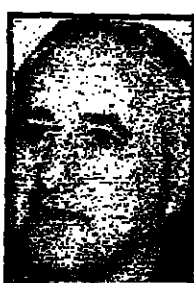
"I have no problem with Shahak as No. 2 in the party or candidate for defense minister. If he is hesitating, I would try to convince him to join the party," MK Uzi Baram, who had considered himself Barak's No. 2, said on Channel 1's *Saturday Night* talk show yesterday.

Commenting on the weekend's opinion polls, in which Shahak came ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Baram said Shahak is "a popular and credible man, who speaks and comes across in a most favorable manner."

Other Labor sources said that while Shahak has not specified his plans, he has indicated in recent media interviews that he is considering a public or political position rather than private business.

With Shahak there's no doubt of his joining politics. It's only a matter of time," one source said.

Leah Rabin, Yitzhak Rabin's widow, last week called on Shahak to join Labor, saying his natural place is in the Labor



Former CGS Amnon Lipkin-Shahak

leadership. President Ezer Weizman, meanwhile, urged Shahak to "take his place in shaping the state and assume a public or political position."

Labor Party sources said yesterday Barak is also likely to meet soon with Maj.-Gen. (res.) Matan Vilnai, Vilnai quit the IDF in a huff earlier this month after he was passed over for the post of chief of staff.

Concerning the frequently touted idea of a national unity government, Baram said Labor should consider joining one if the possibility is raised, to ensure Netanyahu implements the pullout and to formulate a joint peace plan without the extreme Right.

Baram in the past led the opposition to a unity government, but said he would not object with such vehemence today.

"At first I attributed personal motives to Shimon Peres for consistently pushing for a unity government. But as time passes and you see the whole peace process on the verge of cracking, you realize what's at stake," he said.

"If Netanyahu wants to carry out the pullout and the extreme Right isn't letting him do that, I'd consider joining on certain conditions, like the exclusion of the National Religious Party or Land of Israel Front, and going together to the final-status arrangement with a joint peace plan."

US: Israel, PA must talk

Albright: American mediation nearing its end

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority on Friday to renew direct contact, saying progress is impossible without it.

Albright said the current phase of American mediation is nearing

Arafat travels to Libya, Page 2

its end, but stopped short of threatening to end US mediation efforts aimed at breaking the long stalemate.

Israel Radio last night quoted government sources in Jerusalem and PA sources as saying Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and PLO executive committee secretary Mahmoud Abbas plan to meet in the near future.

Albright's statement was the first time, in the course of its months-long effort to mediate an IDF redeployment as a springboard to inaugurating final-status negotiations, that the US has prodded the sides to close the gaps themselves.

However, the administration has frequently warned that the US effort is not open-ended, and has spoken vaguely of considering new courses of action.

Albright further used the occasion of her meeting with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa to announce that Washington and Cairo are inau-



Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa meet the press Friday at the State Department in Washington, prior to discussing the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate.

gurating a "strategic dialogue," which she described as a formal channel for discussing issues of importance and airing differences.

Albright said that teams from both countries plan to meet regu-

larly to "exchange ideas on regional and global issues."

During a question-and-answer session with reporters prior to their meeting, Albright said that the administration continues to work closely with the parties to

narrow the gaps.

"But let me just say that what has happened here as a result of this long stalemate, it is increasingly difficult, it seems to be, for the Israelis and the Palestinians to talk with each

other," she said.

"And we don't think that this impasse can be resolved and that we can come to a conclusion if they do not talk with each other."

See TALKS, Page 2

Satellite launch declared a success

By DAVID RUDGE

Scientists and students celebrated last night after receiving the first signals from space from the Technion's micro-satellite, following its successful launch Friday aboard a Russian Zenith rocket after a series of setbacks and delays.

The Gurwin II TechSat made its first pass over Israel at 10:25 last night after successfully separating from the giant Russian satellite which was launched aboard the rocket, along with four others.

A control and monitoring station has been set up on the roof of the Technion's Aerospace Engineering Faculty, from where information received from the

satellite is being relayed to the command center at the nearby Asher Space Research Institute.

Institute head Prof. Moshe Geulman and former director Prof. Giora Shaviv, one of the founding fathers of the \$8 million satellite project, together with Technion president Zeev Tadmor, were among the first to receive the news of the success.

The Technion spokesman said that the signals indicated the satellite and all its systems are functioning according to plan.

"The Technion has itself launched into a new era and has succeeded in proving that a student project can lead the way in high-tech projects which are at the cutting edge of the country's

advanced technologies industry," said Tadmor.

Geulman said the success of the project raised new challenges for the Technion and opened the possibility of new markets.

Gurwin II TechSat marks the culmination of seven years of work by scientists, students, and experts from Israeli high-tech companies. It was launched from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan on Friday, after technical delays.

The cube-shaped satellite measures just 45 centimeters on each side and weighs only 48 kg. But it packs a big payload of scientific equipment for carrying out experiments in space and also enabling a worldwide link-up for amateur

radio operators.

Solar panels on its sides provide the power supply of just 10 watts to run all the various systems, including the all-important computer.

The Gurwin II TechSat is now at an orbit altitude of 830 kms above the earth and will circle the globe approximately every 120 minutes. This will give the scientists and students at the command center a regular opportunity to receive data and also transmit signals to the satellite, giving it instructions to carry out a wide range of experiments.

One of these will use an ultraviolet spectro-radiometer to measure ozone concentration in the atmosphere.

Health Ministry: Sniff Coke before sipping

By JUDY SIEGEL

Senior Health Ministry officials were perplexed last night after finding "minute quantities of paint thinner" in a 1.5-liter bottle of Coca Cola bought in a Beit She'an grocery store.

The bottle had an expiration date a few days before that stamped on 15 smelly bottles of Coca Cola and one bottle of Sprite sold in a Rehovot shop last week. All the bottles showed white, spider-web-like signs on the bottom.

The ministry and the police are continuing to investigate, but they insist the solvent did not enter the bottles during the manufacturing process.

For lack of clearer directives, ministry officials said until further notice consumers should sniff bottles of Coca Cola before drinking their contents; any bottle with a strange smell should be brought to the nearest district health office.

On Friday, the ministry had called off all warnings, saying that the smelly Sprite bottle found to have residues of paint thinner had been purchased from the Easymarket grocery in Rehovot where the Malini family had bought the first bottle of contaminated cola. That bottle had an expiration date of 7/10.

Ministry spokesman Yoram Malka said Friday that the box of soft drinks in the Rehovot grocery had been kept on a floor where paint had spilled — though he couldn't say whether it was plastic paint (which contains no oil-soluble solvents) or oil paint.

But the discovery of another affected bottle in Beit She'an — that did not have any signs on the bottom — has left officials scratching their heads.

See COKE, Page 2

Orange Order, Catholics in last-ditch talks as Ireland violence escalates

By GILES ELGOOD

BELFAST (Reuters) — Last-ditch negotiations to avert a crisis over a banned Protestant parade got under way in Northern Ireland yesterday, hours after police came under fire from protesters in a further night of violence.

Delegations representing the Protestant Orange Order and Catholic residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road began what have been described as "proximity talks" in a bid to end an ugly stand-off at barbed wire sealing the road off.

The Orange Order, a 200-year-old brotherhood loyal to Britain, is determined to march down the street as part of celebrations marking the 1690 victory of William of Orange over Catholic King James.

Catholics see the march as intimidation and politicians on both sides of the divide fear further violence could undermine a peace accord sealed in April that has raised hopes of an end to 30 years of violence.

Meanwhile, police in Britain and Ireland were yesterday still questioning nine people arrested in an operation to foil what they called a dissident Irish republican "terrorist" bomb attack in central London.

Six people were arrested in London at the height of the day evening rush hour, some in possession of explosive devices intended to be used

"within minutes." Three more people were arrested in the Irish Republic.

The operation appeared to be the work of former hard-line members of the Irish Republican Army opposed to April's landmark peace accord, which confirmed British sovereignty over Northern Ireland while laying the basis for closer ties to the Irish republic.

Sources close to the talks said that delegations from both sides had arrived at a district council building in the city of Armagh, the spiritual capital of both the Protestant and Catholic churches in Northern Ireland, some 55 km. southwest of Belfast.

The sources said the two delegations would sit in separate rooms and would speak only through mediators.

No schedule had been set for the talks, which were described as open-ended, and no information would be given to the media on their progress until they were completed.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair proposed the encounter, appointing his chief of staff and respected go-betweens to shuttle between the parties.

They hope to find a compromise ahead of tomorrow's climax of the Orange Order's annual marching season, when thousands more Protestants could converge on Portadown to challenge police and soldiers, barring the Orangemen's route since last Sunday.

Police said their vehicles ranged along the confrontation line were hit overnight by rounds fired from a rifle and a handgun. Police in Armagh fired plastic riot control bullets.



Bravo, Benigni!

Italian director-actor Roberto Benigni holds up his Medal of Jerusalem, after being awarded it yesterday by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) at the Jerusalem Film Festival. Benigni's award-winning, controversial film about the Holocaust, "Life is Beautiful," premieres here this evening.

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NEWS

in brief

King Hussein invites Barak

Jordan's King Hussein has invited Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak to a meeting in Amman on Tuesday for talks on the peace process and the possibilities for a second withdrawal by the IDF in the West Bank. Crown Prince Hassan has invited MK Yossi Beilin for a meeting today as part of the dialogue the two maintain about the peace process. Beilin is expected to present a plan for a regional economic confederation. *Itm*

American tourist drowns

A 59-year-old American tourist drowned yesterday morning in Eilat, off the Dolphin Reef Beach. Other bathers pulled him from the water and brought him to Josephthal Hospital, where doctors could not revive him. *Itm*

Islamic Jihad newspaper reopens

A Palestinian Islamist newspaper resumed publication in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank yesterday, 28 months after it was shut down by the Palestinian Authority, officials at the newspaper said. The weekly *al-Istiqal* is affiliated with the Islamic Jihad movement. Palestinian police shut down the newspaper in 1996 on charges of inciting violence against Israel and for sharply criticizing the political performance of the Palestinian Authority.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Islamic Jihad followers chanted "Death to America" and burned both nations' flags at a rally in the Gaza Strip yesterday. *News agencies*

Man gets 21 years for inciting Crown Heights riots

The man convicted of inciting the 1991 riots in Crown Heights, Brooklyn that led to the fatal stabbing of Yankel Rosenbaum, a Hasidic scholar from Australia, was sentenced last week to 21 years in prison.

The sentence, given to Charles Price in a federal court in Brooklyn, is longer than the term given to Lemrick Nelson, who was sentenced in April to 19 years in prison after his conviction on federal civil rights charges in Rosenbaum's death.

The riots began after a driver in the motorcade of the Lubavitcher rebbe killed a black child, Gavin Cato. *Marilyn Henry*

Haredim protest J'lem eatery's Shabbat opening

Haredim demonstrated yesterday in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim to protest the Shabbat opening of a restaurant on Rehov Hanavi'im, which borders the neighborhood. About 200 haredim blocked an intersection with garbage bins and threw stones at police. One man was arrested. No one was hurt. Police dispersed the demonstrators. *Amy Klein*

B'tselem faults police actions in Shuafat camp

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem police used unnecessarily severe and violent methods during an operation in the Shuafat refugee camp, which ended Thursday night, B'tselem said in a complaint filed with the Interior Ministry and the police investigating unit.

Shuafat camp, located in eastern Jerusalem, is the only refugee camp within sovereign Israeli territory.

Police initiated the 12-day operation because of a high degree of criminal activity there, said Police Spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby. "The purpose was to find criminals, illegal refugees from over the green line, and stone-throwers," he said.

During the operation, police arrested tens of people, and found many unregistered cars.

The operation ended at the same time that B'tselem submitted its request that police activity there be stopped. B'tselem is also known as the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

CLARIFICATION

Jonathan Rosenblum's op-ed article on Friday should have ended: "Were it to do so, as some in the movement have urged, its marriages would be recognized like those of any other separate faith community in Israel. In the meantime, Regev should stop telling the world that Reform Jews in Israel are religious martyrs."

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

AARON D. KRUMBEIN

Shiva will be observed at the home of the deceased, Rehov Neter 134/17, Ma'alot Dafna until Thursday morning.

Hilda Krumbein
Esther and Baruch Wasserman
David and Chana Krumbein
Dabbe and Tzvi Goldberg
Rita and Kenneth Spetner
Simeon and Elaine Krumbein
Grandchildren

With deepest regret we announce the passing of

NIBBY (Norman) PEN

A founding member of Moshav Haborim

The family

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, July 12, at 4 p.m., at Moshav Kerem Maharal.

The South African Zionist Federation

extends its heartfelt condolences to
Lou and family
on the untimely passing of
CAROLE PITLUK
a past devoted staff member

Syrian FM Farouk Shara: Peace with Netanyahu 'unobtainable'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara's charge that Israel is to blame for the stagnant peace process was rejected yesterday by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, as a misrepresentation of the diplomatic facts.

Shara was quoted by the French weekly *Le Point* as saying peace will be "unobtainable" as long as Netanyahu is in office. The remark

came during an interview in advance of President Hafez Assad's four-day visit to France, which begins Wednesday.

"It is the Syrians who are refusing to negotiate and it is this refusal which makes progress towards peace impossible," Bar-Ilan said.

According to Reuters' translation of the French text, Shara said "the situation in the Middle East has not been so dangerous since the 1991 [peace] conference in Madrid and the end of the Cold War."

"Today there will be total peace or no peace at all. There is no middle ground. Now, with Benjamin Netanyahu, peace is unobtainable," Shara went on to assail the Palestinians for having negotiated the Oslo Accords five years ago without consulting the Arab states. "By negotiating with the Israelis alone and in secret, the Palestinians neutralized the Arab nations. At the time of the Madrid conference we were strong because we were together."

Bar-Ilan said: "Israel is prepared

to renew negotiations with the Syrians and Lebanese without preconditions."

"To condemn Israel's democratically-elected government while refusing to negotiate does not help the peace process," he said.

Bar-Ilan also commented about *Le Point's* report that fugitive Nazi SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Alois Brunner has been transferred from Syria, which has been his sanctuary since 1959, to Iraq.

"The most amazing part of this story is that it comes after four

decades of denial by the Syrian regime that he was there," Bar-Ilan said.

However, France's leading Nazi hunter, Serge Klarsfeld, termed *Le Point's* report "absurd." Klarsfeld said there will be a demonstration in front of Syria's embassy in Paris on Thursday to demand Brunner's extradition to stand trial in France for crimes against humanity.

It will follow the annual commemoration for the victims of the Nazis' mass roundup of Jews in France on July 16 and 17, 1942.

Arafat to visit Gaddafi

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat journeyed to Libya yesterday to visit ailing Col. Muammar Gaddafi, traveling by land via Tunisia because of the UN air embargo on Libya, according to Palestinian sources.

Arafat's visit to Gaddafi, who had surgery on a broken hip on Monday, follows that of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the presidents of Chad and Niger earlier in the week.

Arafat's adviser in Gaza, Marwan Kanafani, said the Palestinian leader aimed to "wish Gaddafi well after his leg surgery."

But Arafat was forced to take a roundabout route because of the air embargo imposed on Libya in 1992 — unlike Mubarak, who flew to Tripoli after getting special authorization from the United Nations. Kanafani said Arafat crossed from the Gaza Strip into Egypt.

In a report from Tunis, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said Arafat landed on the Tunisian island of Jerba, near the Libyan border, and took a car to Tripoli.

Mubarak flew direct to Libya on Thursday, but only after receiving UN approval to override the embargo. It was the first time the world body had authorized such a move for a world leader.

In announcing that it had authorized the Mubarak flight, UN officials in New York said no such permission had been granted to the presidents of Chad and Niger, who arrived days before Mubarak.

The UN Security Council imposed the embargo on Libya in 1992 in a bid to force Gaddafi to turn over two Libyans wanted for the 1988 bombing of an American airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, in which 270 people were killed.

COKE

Continued from Page 1

Investigators are checking whether the problem could have been caused by the plastic bottles before they ever reached the bottling factory.

In any case, mice that were injected with the contaminated drinks suffered no harm, and the ministry said that only long-term exposure to thinner residues could be carcinogenic or cause neurological damage.

The Health Ministry last night appointed a committee of experts, headed by Yosef Ribak, the head of occupational medicine at Tel Aviv University, to look into the material in the bottles and the manufacturing process of the cola and the bottles.

The committee, which also includes Dr. Brian Cousin, head of the ministry's food service department and Dan Halperin, head of quality control at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, will report its findings in a few days.

IRELAND

Continued from Page 1

Local media reports said about 20 people had been injured by plastic bullets, one of them critically.

To counter the allegations from the Orangemen that they had been heavy-handed in firing hundreds of plastic rounds, police released a videotape that they said showed a gunman firing at police lines.

The dramatic pictures showed a man with a black balaclava woolen mask over his face firing two rounds from a rifle.

The muzzle flashes could be seen as he fired from in front of a hamburger stand.

About 2,000 Protestant protesters, angered by the ban on the Orange Order march, threw blast bombs and petrol bombs and fired ball-bearings from catapults, police said.

Police said protesters had tried to break through the barbed wire keeping the parade away from the Garvaghy Road, but had not succeeded.



Four mothers, one father

Members of The Four Mothers Movement, joined by Labor MK Yossi Beilin, demonstrate Friday in front of Camp Rabin, the IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv, for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. (Itan Osendyver/Israel Sun)

Special team investigates murder of tile factory owner

By DAVID RUDGE

Police have set up a special investigation team following the discovery of a man's body in the tile factory he owned near the Druse village of Sajur in the Galilee.

The body of Salah Ghanem, 50, a resident of nearby Rama village not far from Karmiel, was discovered

in the factory premises late Thursday night.

From the signs of violence on the body there was no doubt that Ghanem had been murdered, a police spokesman said.

The body was sent to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir for an autopsy.

The spokesman said that Ghanem had been missing from

his home for two days before his body was found. Supt. Faris Faraj, of the Galilee district's detective branch was appointed to head the murder inquiry team.

The spokesman said that they were still awaiting the findings of the autopsy.

So far, no one has been arrested and the motive for the murder remains unclear.

Five die on roads

By DAVID RUDGE

Four people were killed in road accidents over the weekend, while a fifth person died after having heart attack at the wheel.

An eight-year-old boy died in an accident in Buk'ata village on the Golan Heights yesterday, when an all-terrain vehicle crashed into him as he was riding his bicycle.

The driver of the ATV was detained for questioning.

In Ramat Gan yesterday afternoon, Miriam Dangur, 62, was killed when the car she was driving crashed into another vehicle, whose three passengers sustained sustained light injuries.

According to police reports, the woman had been driving on the wrong side of the road against the flow of traffic.

A resident of Jaffa was killed when his car crashed into a lamp-post in Lod early yesterday morning.

In Haifa's Hadar district early yesterday, a car swerved out of its lane and crashed into a parked vehicle. Police said the driver, a 46-year-old resident of nearby Nether, had suffered a heart attack.

He was taken to Rambam Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

A car overturned on the Atzva Road as its driver was heading for Eilat on Thursday night, and he eventually died of his injuries.

He was said to be in his thirties. A passenger sustained light-to-moderate injuries.

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Judge delays decision in Flatow case

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — A federal judge stayed execution Thursday of his earlier order to seize Iranian property in Washington to satisfy a civil damage award for the family of Alisa Flatow, who was killed in the April 1995 Kfar Darom bus bombing.

In explaining his decision, Judge Royce Lamberth said he wanted to "read carefully" on a matter that has diplomatic ramifications.

The request for the stay was made by the US State and Justice Departments.

Lamberth gave the administration 10 days to present a detailed argument for why the order should be cancelled.

Stephen Flatow, the victim's father, and his lawyers said they could not fathom why the American government was challenging the original order and was, in effect, supporting Iran's interest over that of a murdered American citizen.

Justice Department attorney Vincent Garvey refused to comment on the matter after

Thursday's hearing. He did state inside the courtroom that he requested the stay because "just starting this process" by serving the order on the Iranians "is problematic for us."

On Wednesday, Lamberth had issued an order giving Iran 60 days to appear in court to explain why its former embassy building and two residences it still owns in the District of Columbia should not be seized and sold to begin paying off the \$247 million award that Lamberth rendered in March.

The administration immediately contested the order and on Thursday, Garvey suggested that the writ for it be withdrawn, arguing before Lamberth that the US, under the Foreign Missions Act, is obligated to "protect mission premises in the US."

He said he wanted to "make it clear" that he was not representing Iran. Thomas Fortune Fay, an attorney for the Flatows, contested that view, stating that the State Department was altering its own policy by appearing in court to challenge the order.



US Bonds mission arrives

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (fourth from right) meets with a delegation of US Israel Bonds leaders and businessmen from Brooklyn led by borough president Howard Golden (third from right).

(Yitzhak Elhanan/Scoop 80)

US Jewish fund-raisers to merge

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — American Jewish fund-raising agencies approved a plan last week that, in effect, would merge the philanthropies and leave them under the control of local Jewish federations, whose commitment to the Jewish Agency appears to be waning.

Details of the merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel Appeal, and the Council of Jewish Federations were not announced. Some 140 Jewish communal officials met for two days in Chicago to work out the future ties of the central fund-raising institutions, which raise about \$750 million a year. Local Jewish federations will control at least 67 percent of the new entity, which has been discussed by the euphemistic name the "partnership," according to a statement released late Friday.

Merger plans, which have been under review for several years, previously fell apart when the federations would not guarantee a minimum of \$310 million a year for Israel. The local federations focus on domestic American Jewish programs, and send only some \$200 million a year to the Jewish Agency. In addition to the declining shares for Israel, some federations are bypassing the agency.

Instead, they are making direct allocations to the Israeli programs and institutions of their choice.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Who do you call?

The harsh exchange between Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Monday in the Knesset, sparked by Barak attacking the premier for having no one to turn to except his American advisor, Arthur Finkelstein, provoked much press commentary.

Ma'ariv's Shmuel Schnitzer criticized Labor for attacking the Netanyahu government. "[By doing so, Labor] makes us wonder whether it has any identity and political message of its own. The slogan 'Bibi leads in lies' is a poor alternative for a political argument," he says.

Yediot Aharonot's Uri Orbach agrees that, instead of dealing with relevant issues, the parties engaged in a battle of numbers. "From now on we are sentenced to a flood of telephone numbers instead of arguments, for area codes instead of relevant answers... One nation one dial... prepare your answering machines."

"Finally, the result was a tie between [Barak and Netanyahu], but Netanyahu celebrated like a winner," writes Ma'ariv's Ben Caspi.

Other commentators seriously address the issue whether Netanyahu still has someone he can count on.

Ma'ariv's Shalom Yerushalmi states that Netanyahu has a man who is even closer to him than Finkelstein, "who is willing to help him even in the middle of the night... his name is Aryeh Deri." Yerushalmi argues that Shas's condition in the current coalition has never been better as far as appointments and budgets are concerned and it is prospering. "This is the most widespread explanation for Deri's absolute loyalty to Netanyahu," he writes.

Yediot's Shimon Schiffer writes that the only person left in the cabinet who is Netanyahu ally is Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

New chief of staff

Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz became Israel's 16th chief of General Staff last week.

"Mofaz must lead the IDF to the 21st century with all that it entails," declares Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Schiff, who elaborates on the challenges that face Mofaz. "The key question is whether Israel is truly marching toward

peace agreements and security arrangements with the Palestinians and Arab countries or is in a trend that marks the collapse of the political process and the prior peace agreements." Schiff adds that, between the Iranian threat, the protection of settlements, and the military budget, it is doubtful whether Mofaz will be able to continue building power in conventional ways.

Yediot's Ron Ben-Yishai categorizes Mofaz as an anxious chief of staff, like the late Yitzhak Rabin, and contrary to the smug chiefs of staff over the last three years. "It is much more difficult to surprise or catch the anxious ones unprepared, because they take nothing for granted. Mofaz is probably one of those."

Questionable ally

When Ehud Barak's bill to draft yeshiva students was rejected by the Knesset, the decision by the Arab party Hadash to vote against it, siding with the haredim, raised tension between the two parties.

Ma'ariv's Sima Kidmon states that Labor's attempt to persuade the Arabs to support the bill under the argument that it would promote the struggle for equality between Arabs and Jews is amusing, as the campaign featured slogans such as "One nation, one draft" and "We are all Jews, including the haredim." She adds that the era when Labor assumed that the Arab parties operate as its "satellite parties" is over.

Efraim Sidon, also of Ma'ariv, is puzzled by the right wing's inconsistency as it embraces the Arab vote against the bill, while in the past it rejected Arab parties' right to intervene in serious state matters. He concludes that "the Arabs were once again called to do the Jew's dirty work."

Bonding in Rhodes

"The future peace does not only rely on major agreements, but also and foremost on the fulfillment of small needs," writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid, referring to the meetings in Rhodes last week between Israeli and Palestinian politicians and reporters, organized by the Peace Center. "I came back from Rhodes with the feeling that the relationship with the Palestinians must be based on practical doings. The big solutions will be come in time."



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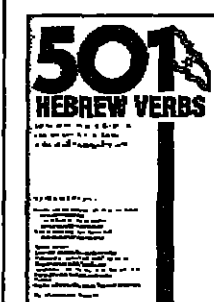
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Jordan signs treaty to ban land mines

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan signed a global land mine treaty yesterday, joining 127 other countries that have endorsed the pact, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of the weapon.

The announcement was made by Queen Noor, King Hussein's wife.

"I would like to begin by announcing with great pride and hope that, as of this morning, the Jordanian cabinet approved the signing of the Ottawa convention," Noor told more than 250 people from more than 20 countries at a conference on land mines.

Delegates at the two-day meeting are discussing ways of assisting mine victims in the Middle East.

It is hosted by the Land mine Survivors Network, a private organization based in Washington, DC.

The Ottawa convention, which was reached in Canada last December, has been signed by 127 nations.

Twenty-three nations have so far ratified the treaty, which

must be ratified by 40 states to take effect.

In her 30-minute address, Noor said that Jordan stopped importing land mines in 1974 "and will never import them anymore."

But she stressed that Jordan needs technical assistance and equipment to clear the 185,000 remaining mines, the bulk of them planted along the border with Israel since the Six Day War.

Jordan has already cleared 65,000 mines in the last five years, but its efforts have been slow, apparently because of the lack of the necessary equipment, said Jerry White, executive director of the Land mine Survivors Network.

Nasser Majali, a Jordanian army general responsible for clearing mines, said that from 1973 until 1993 more than 80 Jordanians were killed and 621 injured, including 400 civilians, from mines.

Since March 1993, only 29 people were injured and there were no reported deaths, Majali added.



Jordan's Queen Noor hugs Jordanian land mine victim Ibrahim Qasem yesterday, during the opening of the Land Mine Conference in Amman. (AP)

Satmar's special NY school district struck down again

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — For the third time, the courts have struck down a special New York public school district that serves the Satmar hasidic community, ruling that it violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

On these different occasions, the New York legislature created a public school district for the Satmar community of Kiryas Joel, a village of 12,000 about 60 kilometers from New York City.

While most of its students attend yeshivot, Kiryas Joel sought the special public district to qualify for an estimated \$3 million a year in government aid to pay for the education of disabled hasidic children.

Although the children could have attended a local public school, the Satmar community had argued that its children would be ridiculed and ostracized in such surroundings.

The special district also ensured that the community had control over all facets of the education.

A New York appellate court ruled unanimously on Thursday that, because the special district

applied only to the hasidim, the government was impermissibly engaged in religion.

The court then suggested that, as an alternative, Kiryas Joel invite public school teachers into the yeshivot to teach the disabled students.

The Kiryas Joel district was first created in 1989. The US Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in 1994. Since then, the New York legislature has modified the law in unsuccessful efforts to make the school district legally acceptable.

On Friday, it appeared that the state would try for a fourth time to create a special school district, given that this is an election year in New York and the hasidic community is a significant voting bloc.

The American Jewish Congress, which has opposed the district, called on the state "to recognize that the Kiryas Joel district cannot be constitutional."

Legislation intended to reestablish the district, said AJC Executive Director Phil Baum, "is nothing but a sham, a legislative subterfuge and a merger of religion and political power."

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Autopsy: Abiola died of natural causes

By MATTHEW TOSTEVIN

LAGOS (Reuters) — International pathologists who carried out an autopsy on the body of Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola said yesterday he had died of natural causes.

"In our opinion the mechanism of death is due to a rapid deterioration in a diseased heart," the pathologists said in a statement issued in Lagos.

"At this time our preliminary opinion is that death was due to natural causes as a result of his long-standing heart disease," the statement added.

It said they found Abiola had two types of heart disease, a severe narrowing of the main coronary artery and significant enlargement of the heart due to long-standing hypertension.

Abiola died in detention on Tuesday while discussing terms for his release from four years in prison with a visiting US delegation.

He was buried yesterday just hours after the autopsy, which was carried out by foreign pathologists at his family's request.

"After a detailed review of the observations of witnesses present at the time of death, we believe that poisoning is extremely unlikely," the pathologists' statement said.

"Despite the obvious evidence of significant natural disease, for the sake of completeness further testing will be accomplished over the next three weeks."

Up to 60 people have died in four days of rioting since Abiola's death as his supporters accused the military government of killing the 60-year-old Moslem tycoon. He was detained in 1994 for declaring himself president on the basis of 1993 elections annulled as he was poised to win.

The result of the autopsy is critical to calming tempers in the southwest of Nigeria, Abiola's home region and political stronghold, where the violence following his death has taken place.

The pathologists, who worked through Friday night, came from the US, Britain and Canada and are seen as impartial.

Abiola was jailed under former dictator Sani Abacha, who himself



Students demonstrate Friday at the Abiola residence in Lagos. Elsewhere in the Nigerian capital, mobs stormed through streets setting fires, smashing windows and blocking roads.

died of a heart attack last month.

His successor, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, has freed some political detainees and is expected to spell out his plan to restore democracy this week.

"I shall address the nation very

soon on the way we have determined to be the best way forward for our fatherland," he told graduating officers at a military staff college in the northern city of Kaduna on Friday.

His one month in power has won Nigeria some measure of interna-

tional respect after the pariah status it suffered under Abacha because of abuse of human rights and lack of democracy.

Abiola's funeral, which took place before the autopsy results were announced, was charged with

political and ethnic tension.

His political followers struggled to seize the body at the graveside, wrapped in a simple white Moslem shroud, as his most senior wives and children prepared to lower it into the ground.

Chants of resistance against the military government and the north, which dominates power in Africa's most populous nation, mingled with the sound of the imam's Moslem prayers.

"He is our president and we must give him a proper burial, that is why we tried to seize him. The family don't recognize that he is for all the people," said Toyin Banjo, one of a crowd of youths.

The youths, carrying Abiola's portrait and calling for self-rule for Nigeria's southwest, ensured that an official government delegation did not attempt to come.

"It is disgusting to take over the man's funeral like this. He himself would never have accepted it," said one Yoruba elder who would not be named.

Thousands were prevented from attending the burial by roadblocks set up around 200 meters from the house.

As the ceremony ended and Abiola was covered with earth, many tried to get past the roadblocks and were charged by paramilitary police in an armored personnel carrier.

"This is the end of an era," commented a broadcaster on the privately owned Rhythm Radio minutes after Abiola's remains were lowered into the grave.

"For me it's irrelevant," Kola Abiola, the tycoon's first son, said of the autopsy results.

"You don't have to poison a man, don't have to spike his tea, to kill him. My father was locked up for four years without proper medical treatment and that is what leads to death. We know who is responsible for that."

A letter from Abiola to the opposition NADECO group, published in his own newspaper yesterday, denied that during recent negotiations to secure his release he had renounced the claim for which he was arrested in 1994.

"The June 11, 1994 declaration [when he proclaimed himself president and was arrested] still subsists and has served and is still serving the purpose for which it was made," said the letter, dated July 5, 1998 to NADECO chairman Senator Abraham Adesanya and published in the *Concord* newspaper.

Turner: Retracting story was 'most horrible' thing in life

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — CNN founder Ted Turner has said the network's retraction of a story claiming that the US military used nerve gas during a Vietnam War raid was "the most horrible thing" that ever happened to him.

"Nothing has upset me as much in my whole life," Turner said, including his Atlanta Braves baseball team "losing to the Yankees in the World Series after being up by two games, the failure of two marriages, the death of my father. It's the most horrible thing."

Turner, speaking on Friday to a group of television writers and critics after a preview of CNN's upcoming documentary "Cold War," said the network was his "baby" from the beginning and that the controversy over the story brought him both embarrassment and sadness.

He said new measures would be put in place at CNN to ensure that "nothing like this ever happens again." Already in place, he said, was an oversight committee made up of CNN News Group President Tom Johnson, CNN/USA President Richard Kaplan and other executives.

The June 7 CNN report alleged that the US military used the deadly nerve gas sarin to kill American defectors and North Vietnamese during a secret 1970 raid by a Special Forces unit on a small Laotian village.

The story was reported on "NewsStand," a joint venture of CNN and Time magazine. Both news organizations retracted the story July 2, saying that the facts could not be supported, and the network apologized to all of the military participants.

Since then, one producer at CNN has been fired and two others have resigned. Reporter Peter Arnett was reprimanded.

Turner said Friday he knew a little about the story before it

Scholar: Pooh had big brain

By PAUL MAJENDIE

DARTINGTON, England (Reuters) — To say Winnie the Pooh is a bear with very little brain is a wicked travesty of the truth, a British social historian said yesterday.

John Tyerman Williams has proved beyond reasonable doubt — to himself at least — that all Western philosophy, from ancient Greek cosmologists to 20th century existentialists, can be found in A.A. Milne's classic tale of Christopher Robin's nursery friends.

What Tyerman Williams started as an elaborate joke concocted one night while reading in bed has turned into a worldwide Pooh industry to delight academic Pooh lovers in 14 languages from Korean to Hebrew, Japanese to German.

At the age of 77, Tyerman Williams has found the perfect formula for a best-seller — *Pooh and the Philosophers*, which has sold 250,000 copies around the world — and then followed it up with *Pooh and the Ancient Mysteries*.

And he hasn't run out of steam

yet. Next in the production line is *Pooh and the Psychologists*.

"The wisdom of Pooh has been shamefully neglected by scholars," he argues.

The Pooh estate of writer A.A. Milne and illustrator Ernest H. Shepard may have taken 30 percent of the royalties from the books, but Tyerman Williams is still laughing all the way to the bank over his elaborate joke.

"I just expected a bit of pocket money. Now it has turned into a cult book," he said at a literary festival in western England where he spent out how Pooh was in fact a bear of enormous brain.

He dedicates his magnum opus to his wife, Elizabeth, "whose encouragement and constructive criticism turned a casual joke into this book."

"Elizabeth said there is definitely a book here. I am an obedient sort of fellow," the author recalled.

A former actor, schoolteacher and philosophy student, he did not even read *Winnie The Pooh* until he was 30. His affection for the much-maligned bear has been unswerving ever since.

"Pooh is a misunderstood bear, but I am looking at the depths," he

said. "It is a joke but I did take great care to get the references right and got a philosopher to vet it," he added.

He believes that Pooh's balloon flight clearly demonstrated Nietzsche's criterion of freedom: "How is freedom measured in individuals as in nations? By the resistance which has to be overcome, by the efforts it cost to stay aloft."

He even throws fresh light on Pooh's circular pursuit of the Woozle and the Empirical test of a pot of honey right to the bottom.

The Germans got the esoteric jokes; so did the Japanese.

"I am told Pooh is very big in Japan. I have got my royalty checks. I even have a Finnish translation of the book."

The Pooh-ology bandwagon rolls on as he has already found 40 references to psychology in the children's tales.

But his third Pooh saga is definitely his last.

"Pooh may be a bear of enormous brain. I am not. I am more like Owl. I identify with Owl as I talk a lot, use long words, am untidy and hopelessly impractical."

Police arrest Naples mob boss

CASERTA, Italy (Reuters) — Italian police said yesterday they had arrested one of the top bosses of the Camorra, the Naples-area Mafia, who is suspected of having ordered dozens of murders in the last decade.

Francesco Schiavone, head of the Casalese-clan which operates in the southern city of Caserta, some 10 km north of Naples, was nabbed after five years on the run, police said. He was among Italy's 50 most wanted mobsters.

"This is a very hard blow for the Camorra. We have caught one of its most dangerous bosses who for a long time had managed to evade persistent searches by police," Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano said.

The Italian government has stepped up its fight against the Camorra, whose bloody infighting between rival clans has flared up in the last year, claiming some 200 lives. Napolitano sent troops to Naples last summer to try to quell the violence.

Police said they had been hunting for Schiavone since 1993, when, after ending a three-year

Mexico peasant leader slain in apparent assassination

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — A Mexican peasant leader in the southern state of Guerrero was shot four times and killed in an apparent assassination, officials and the local media reported yesterday.

The chief prosecutor's office in Guerrero said Organization of Peasants of the Sierra Sur (OCSS) leader Eusebio Vazquez Juarez was gunned down by unidentified assailants on Thursday night as he cycled to his home in the town of Tepexi.

The prosecutor's office said in a statement the evidence pointed to a personal motive for the slaying, but newspapers, quoting family members and OCSS officials, said Vazquez was probably killed for political reasons.

"He denounced police and army. They were the only rivals he had, because he defended the rights of peasants and denounced the government," the dead man's father, Bernardo Vazquez de la Cruz, told the left-wing *La Jornada* newspaper.

Newspapers said Vazquez's death brought to 34 the number of OCSS members killed in the past three years since police gunned down 17 peasants at Aguas Blancas, a tiny town in Guerrero, which has become a symbol of Mexico's peasant struggles.

While attention has been focused

since January 1994 on the conflict in the southern state of Chiapas between government supporters and Zapatista rebels, the poverty-ridden mountains of Guerrero have quietly turned into another battle zone. The region around Tepexi has in particular become a hotbed of conflict between peasant groups and backers of President Ernesto Zedillo's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Officials link the OCSS to the shadowy Marxist Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), which appeared at the first anniversary of Aguas Blancas and has killed some 50 members of the security forces since, in a low-intensity guerrilla war. There are no known links between the EPR and the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas.

On Friday, an offshoot of the EPR, the so-called People's Insurgent Revolutionary Army (ERPI), claimed responsibility for two recent attacks on security forces in Guerrero, which killed three soldiers and two policemen.

In its statement, the Guerrero state prosecutor's office said police who went to investigate the shooting of Vazquez were fired on by an individual fleeing the murder scene. That, the statement said, suggested the murder was the result of a personal squabble.

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Ignoring West's calls for restraint

Serbs pound Kosovo rebel stronghold

By ADAM BROWN

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Rushing aside international calls for a cease-fire, Serb forces pounded an ethnic Albanian rebel stronghold in Kosovo's second-largest city yesterday, prompting hundreds of terrified civilians to flee the fighting.

The ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Center said Serb troops began shelling the town of Lodja, just outside the western city of Pec, about dawn Friday. At the height of the barrage, shells were falling at the rate of about one a minute.

An independent radio station in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, said the barrage ended at midday. Serb forces were trying to retrieve the bodies of two Serb policemen killed in fighting there three days ago, Radio B92 said.

There was no official govern-

ment statement on the fighting.

But reporters at the scene confirmed the attack and said smoke could be seen rising from Lodja, a stronghold of the Kosovo Liberation Army. The KLA is fighting for independence from Serbia, which is part of Yugoslavia.

Major world powers oppose independence for Kosovo, fearing it could trigger rebellions in other Balkan countries with substantial ethnic Albanian communities.

Hundreds of people have been killed since February, when Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic launched a crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo who had been attacking Serb police and military facilities.

Journalists in Pec, 75 kilometers southwest of the provincial capital, Pristina, said terrified Serb and Albanian civilians were trying to

flee, jamming bus stations and filling their cars with gas.

Many of the ethnic Albanians were believed headed for Montenegro, about 15 kilometers to the north, which has a large ethnic Albanian population.

The League of Democratic Kosovo, the ethnic Albanians' main party, urged international observers to rush to the area to witness the fighting. The party, led by moderate politician Ibrahim Rugova, called on foreign powers to intervene with the Yugoslav government to stop the attack.

Most of Pec's 120,000 residents are ethnic Albanians. But the population has swelled in recent months as villagers throughout the region have sought shelter from the war. Ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs in Kosovo 9-to-1.

Lodja is considered a center for

arms smuggling from Albania, about 25 kilometers to the south. The KLA reported heavy losses when Serb forces shelled the village Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Serb Media Center said two policemen were killed and several wounded in the earlier fighting.

Fighting in Kosoc has raged despite a demand by the Contact Group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy — for an immediate cease-fire followed by peace talks between Kosovo's ethnic Albanians and Milosevic.

Following the Contact Group meeting Wednesday in Bonn, Germany, France and Britain said they would introduce a resolution in the UN Security Council to threaten new measures against the warring sides if they did not halt the fighting.

But diplomatic efforts have so far foundered because of divisions within the ethnic Albanian community and the refusal of the KLA to accept Rugova as their leader in future talks.

Rugova has disavowed violence.

On Saturday, an Albanian language newspaper quoted a self-styled KLA spokesman as saying the rebels would keep fighting if they are excluded from peace talks with the government. Russia and Yugoslavia have ruled out including the KLA.

"If anybody holds talks with Serbia without our consultation, we shall continue fighting," Jakup Krasniqi told the daily newspaper *Koha Ditore*.

"We are against any secret talks." In the interview, Krasniqi rejected Rugova as a leader who "has not fulfilled conditions to be

president of Kosovo. ... We need to free ourselves first and then form political pluralism and later call for elections."

Rugova also supports independence, and on Friday he called on Washington and the Europeans to back that call. He is considered an acceptable negotiating partner because of his non-violent stand.

In the latest attempt to move diplomacy forward, a senior Austrian envoy, Albert Rohan, met Friday with Rugova and KLA officials. But the Vienna newspaper *Die Presse* quoted Rohan as saying that the Albanian leadership was "totally fragmented" on how to proceed.

Die Presse also quoted him as saying he found no support among KLA leaders for autonomy, as called for by the Americans and Europeans, and instead demanded "total independence."

US senate reaffirms Taiwan policy

By TOM RAIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — A two-decade-old commitment of ambiguous military support for Taiwan remains intact, Democrats and Republicans say, after a Senate vote reaffirming US policy toward the island.

Democrats insisted Friday's vote was completely unnecessary, but some conceded it may help clear up any confusion over President Bill Clinton's remarks during his recent nine-day China tour.

Congressional conservatives and some Taiwanese officials contend Clinton altered the US position on the relationship between the mainland and Taiwan by moving closer to China's position on unification.

"We wanted to make sure that people understood that there was no need to have a question about it. Our position has been the same before and after the president's trip to China," said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Republicans saw the situation differently. The solid bipartisan vote "sends a powerful signal that the Senate is not accepting President Clinton's new policy," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Republican from Mississippi, asserted.

In the Taiwanese capital of Taipei, the head of the ruling Nationalist Party, John Chang, said yesterday that the resolution indicated that US congressional support of Taiwan has not been affected by the summit between Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

At the White House, spokesman Mike McCurry said Republican congressional leaders were looking "for the dark lining in the silver cloud" and trying to sully Clinton's well-received China trip.

"The majority leader is wrong when he discusses a new policy," McCurry said. "There is not any new policy. There was simply a reiteration of a policy that presumably Senator Lott abides by."

While in China, Clinton publicly stated Washington's opposition to Taiwanese independence, a separate Taiwan government and the island nation's bid to join the United Nations.

He also used the word "unification" in talking about Taiwan's future — a word that does not appear in US doctrine.

The resolution adopted by the Senate on Friday restates the principal tenets of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, including a declaration that the future of Taiwan "will be determined by peaceful means, with the consent of the people of Taiwan."

That's the language Clinton should have used instead of talking about unification, his critics argued.

The Senate resolution also repeats the 1979 pledge to help Taiwan "maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."

Love Parade rattles Berlin

By SVEN KASTNER

BERLIN (AP) — The heart of Berlin rocked yesterday to thumping electronic music pumped from megaspeakers on 50 floats decked with huge multicolor balloons for the city's annual "Love Parade."

Young people, coiffed and dressed colorfully — and in some cases, barely dressed — danced through city streets in the 10th edition of what has become the world's biggest party for fans of techno music.

Parade organizers estimated the crowd at about 500,000 in the mid-afternoon despite an hour-long downpour, and expected to match last year's tally of one million people before day's end.

Since the first Love Parade a decade ago, when about 50 people danced behind a Volkswagen van, the psychedelic parade has blossomed into an event drawing tourists from around the world and local politicians, including Berlin city-state Interior Minister Jörg Schoenbohm.

"It's so full that if you're sandwiched among a group of people

who are dancing rhythmically, you simply have to join in," Schoenbohm said.

The parade has its critics: Environmentalists say trees and soil are trashed and some city officials complain about post-parade cleanup and repairs.

This year, the Berlin administrative court ordered the parade organizer — the multimedia firm Planetcom — to place dozens of trash cans along the parade route through the Tiergarten park.

The parade spokesman, who goes by the name Disko, said organizers had complied with the order but that he didn't think it helped much. He said he expected three times more garbage than last year.

Though the event is registered as a political demonstration and not a commercial event, hotels, restaurants, bars and dance clubs rejoice at the extra business, estimated at \$100 million in 1997.

After closing ceremonies, the party was expected to continue as usual through the night at Berlin's numerous techno clubs.



Soccer songfest

Plácido Domingo (left), Jose Carreras (center) and Luciano Pavarotti (right) perform during their concert Friday in front of the Eiffel Tower, which kicked off the celebrations for the World Cup's final weekend.

5 killed in renewed S. Africa clashes

By ALLAN SECOMBE

MURBAN (Reuters) — Five people were shot dead over the weekend in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province in a series of politically related killings that have left 18 people dead in a week, police said yesterday.

Gunmen attacked a family sitting around a cooking fire in a Magdala township near the town of Richmond in central KwaZulu-Natal, 500 km southwest of Johannesburg.

A 21-year-old woman and her child, aged three, were shot dead in the attack, police spokesman Superintendent Henry Budhrum

said. Three men were found shot dead in a room in a nearby township of Ndabeni where they were believed to be hiding, Budhrum said.

"These latest killings mean that 18 people have been killed in the Richmond area since last Friday. I think these were political killings," Budhrum said.

South African President Nelson Mandela is expected to attend a funeral on Sunday of three of the eight people killed while watching soccer in a tavern in Richmond last Friday. Of those killed, one was a member of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the town's deputy mayor.

A local police officer said ten-

sion in the area was high and 350 police and soldiers would be deployed ahead of Mandela's visit to the province.

"It's a war zone here," the officer said. "There is a 99.9 percent chance that all these killings are political," he added.

Human rights groups say there is increasing tension between the ANC and the newly-formed United Democratic Movement (UDM) headed in the region by a former self-declared ANC warlord.

The UDM's provincial leader, Sifiso Nkabinde, was expelled from the ANC early last year after allegations that he spied for the police during apartheid.

Russia close to securing IMF loan

By ADAM TANNER

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia was close to securing billions of dollars in vital new credits after intensive negotiations with international banks, but ended talks yesterday without a deal, officials said.

"There was no agreement today with the IMF, not yet," said government spokesman Alexei Volin. "We can say the talks have proceeded rather successfully, but the talks will continue."

President Boris Yeltsin held an unusual Saturday session with Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko and other top government officials and said he was satisfied with progress in the loan talks, the

Kremlin said.

"The president on the whole approved the progress of talks and instructed a completion of the talks in a compressed period," the Kremlin said.

The Russian government, beset by poor tax revenues, low world oil prices and financial market turmoil, says it urgently needs \$10 billion to \$15 billion in loans.

Andrei Trapeznikov, aide to Russian loan negotiator Anatoly Chubais, earlier predicted a deal this weekend.

"Perhaps it will be today or tomorrow morning or tomorrow during the day, but the talk is about a day or two."

One Western banker said some issues in the package aimed at rescu-

ing the economy were unresolved. "There are still things to be worked out. There have certainly been moments of tension," the banker said. He gave no further details.

John Odling-Smee, head of the International Monetary Fund's department responsible for the former Soviet Union, arrived in Moscow on Friday afternoon and held talks with Chubais until after midnight.

Some Western bankers stayed up for hours afterwards to revise documents.

Chubais saw Odling-Smee again last night, as other top government officials met Western bankers. Volin said Odling-Smee might meet the prime minister today.

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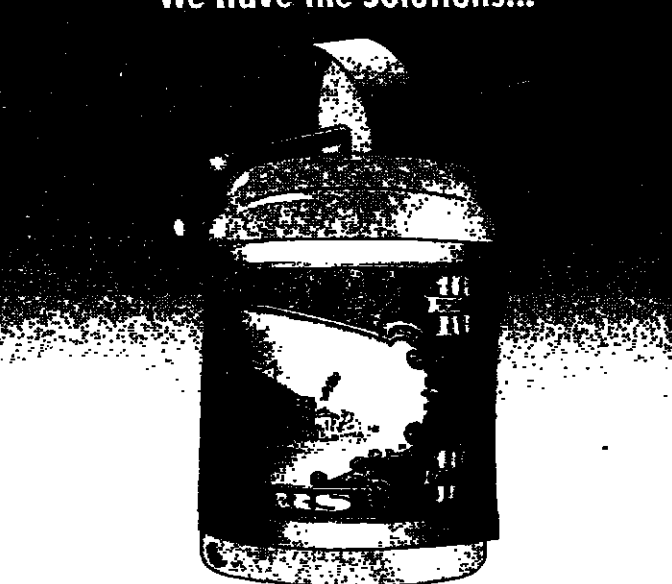
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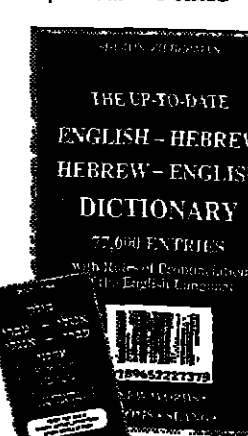
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Flying high

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Musical supergroups always come with the potential for problems. While the idea of taking a number of well-known musicians in their own right and putting them together sounds good in theory, quite often it turns out that the whole does not exceed the

"fun rock" format. The Flies put out enjoyable tunes. Besides the aforementioned "Carol," other highlights on the record include "You," which sounds like Danny Sanderson run amok with a fuzz guitar, and "The Reason That..." with its goofy lyrics about bourekas and buying snakeskin pants.

When the band's other musical instincts take over, you get droning, muddy tracks such as "Kalifornia" or "To Touch the Wind." To the Flies' defense, it should be noted that Sonic Youth's brand of drone rock is hard to pull off well, and numerous SY imitators have tried and failed.

Still, this should not excuse the sloppiness of tracks like "Lonely," which sounds like a bit of rehearsal the band threw in as album filler.

ACCORDING to his press material, singer Adi Ran's debut album is an attempt to bridge religious and secular artistic sensibilities by presenting an album of Jewish religious rock. Ran wants to get away from the Hassidic-themed Oriental music popular on local pirate stations and instead present a religious message within a rock 'n' roll framework.

In the US, Christian rock artists such as Michael W. Smith have gained popularity with Jesus-and-family blandishments done up with guitars and synthesizers. One wonders what this would sound like coming from the Jewish perspective.

The answer: not much.

An odd album, *The Last in the Nation* features songs dealing with basic religious themes: finding and praising God, the wonder of Shabbat, and the daily struggle to do good. Ran also puts in a few plugs for the mystic mantra Nachman Me'uman, copping the refrain from "Hey Jude" in the process.

This wouldn't be too bad if the music was up to speed. Sadly it isn't. On the whole the songs suffer from unimaginative tunes and arrangements — a little bit of folk rock and a dollop of jazz. Ran's singing voice grates. Sounding like Aviv Geffen on a bad day, he tends to hit the wrong notes, and flatly at that.

Yet some of the songs are catchy. "I Have Nothing in This World" has a nice beer-commercial emotion to it. "Dad, I've Become a Doe" is a catchy and amusing tune about telling your parents that you've gone religious. Also catchy, if just for the sentiment, is the track "It's Fun to be a Jew."

On the one hand, secular listeners will probably be put off by the album's overt preachiness. On the other hand, one presumes that religious music fans won't be so quick to give up their Carlebach for this stuff.

sum of its parts.

The new supergroup Hazvuvim (The Flies) features a powerhouse lineup. Along with singer Dan Toran, the band includes former Ziknei Tzfat frontman Maor Cohen, singer/guitarist Jango, and bass player Peter Roth of the band Monika Sex. The band's debut album, *Bzzz*, demonstrates both the musical potential and the musical problems that such a band can incur.

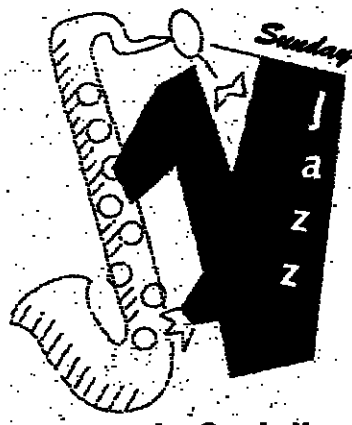
On the whole, *Bzzz* gives the guys a chance to let off some musical steam, playing most of the tracks loose and fast. Interestingly, the band sings a number of songs in English (and one in French), a rare feat — Nona notwithstanding — among local bands.

In fact, the album's standout track "That's Not Carol" is an English-language tune. A rollicking guitar anthem built on a pulsating beat, "Carol" is one of the best recent Israeli singles in any language. The song is so good, however, that the rest of the album suffers by comparison.

The main problem with *Bzzz* comes from a conflict in the band's musical identity, one of the drawbacks of a band whose members have their own distinct musical agendas. One part of The Flies appears to be drawn towards surf music, the Beatles, and '70s Israeli music of the Gazoz variety. The other part aspires to be Sonic Youth. Not only do the two styles fail to complement each other, but the band fares a lot better with the former than they do with the latter.

As long as the guys stick to their

Blues from a Baltimore basement



By Sandra Crockett

The seductive sounds wafting through the floor were a temptation that could not be ignored. Jazz and blues represented the fast life and were forbidden in the West Baltimore home, as in many homes during that time.

But there was no shielding Ethel Ennis from the times. "I could hear the music coming from the apartment below us," Ethel Ennis says. So to get a better earful, the young Ennis got down on the floor, one ear pressed to the concrete.

More than five decades later, Baltimore's 65-year-old jazz diva is still soaking up the music she loves. Her performing schedule this summer includes private functions and the "Chesapeake Jazz Festival" in October, she joins pianist Billy Taylor at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art for a concert; her new CD is scheduled for release in the fall, and she's making plans to travel around the US to promote it.

"It is traditional and contemporary songs," Ennis says. All of the songs are written by women, including Tracy Chapman, Joan Armatrading and Joni Mitchell. Ennis also wrote one of the songs for the still-untilled CD.

Ennis is relaxing in her small but comfortable Baltimore rowhouse on a quiet, tidy street. She and her husband, Earl Arnett, have lived in the same home for more than 30 years. She has a small studio in the basement where she practices. Ennis grew up not far from here, spending some of her adolescence in the projects. The woman who would one day travel the world singing her songs led a cloistered childhood.



Ethel Ennis plays in the basement studio of her Baltimore home. (Algeria Petras)

Her parents, along with her maternal grandmother, shielded Ennis from the segregated times as much as possible. Sometimes, though, the real world intruded. "We were going shopping downtown, and there weren't too many places where you could go to relieve yourself," Ennis says, recalling one of those times. "You had to use the bathroom before you left home, but sometimes that didn't always work out." Ennis described her mother, who was known as Bell, as a fighter. Ennis, however, adopted more of her grandmother's ways. "My grandmother always tried to be understanding about it. She tried to be spiritual about things. Oh my, oh goodness, yes I am more like her!"

Church and family played a big role in the Ennis family life. Her mother traveled to different storefront churches playing the organ and piano. Bell Ennis encouraged the young Ethel to take piano lessons which led to her first job — playing the piano in a church. By the time she was a teenager, Ennis had discovered popular rhythm and blues music — much to the consternation of her family, particularly her grandmother. "I came from a rather conservative background," she says. "Jazz and blues were forbidden." But like other teenagers, then and now, she found the pull of music too strong to ignore.

Opportunity came calling when

she was 15. A neighbor asked her to join a group of young jazz musicians called "Riley's Octet," led by Abraham Riley. She earned \$2.50 a week as a pianist. The group played private functions in various halls. "I was much too young to play in clubs," she says. "So we played in places like VFW and fellowship halls where my age was accepted." Over the years, Ennis's voice has been compared to that of Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee. She has performed locally, nationally and internationally. Her first recording was in 1955 and called *Ethel Ennis Sings Lullabies for Losers*. The public adored her clear, jazzy voice with

the bluesy undertones. Nationally, she caught the eye and ears of top performers. She sang with the Count Basie band, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and Benny Goodman. But, Ennis admits she has never been a household name like Vaughan, Fitzgerald and Lee. In fact, she chose to step away from that kind of fame.

"I saw the rat race. I understood the road they were going to design for me. I decided to step back," she says without a trace of regret.

"She is not running away from success," Arnett says. It's simply that the couple define success in their own terms, which include staying close to family in Baltimore. In 1984, they opened "Ethel's Place," an upscale jazz club on Cathedral Street that featured local and national acts. The club, however, was not profitable, and it closed in 1988. "I have no regrets," Ennis says. "I would do it this way all over again. I would not change a thing. Every day for us is a holiday."

Ennis and Arnett have been married 31 years. He first saw her perform in 1963 at a club. A few years later, when he was a reporter at *The Baltimore Sun*, he decided to do a story on her. "I never did write that story," Arnett says. Ennis says they have a romance that has lasted throughout the years. Arnett has been described as being Ennis's manager, but they say that is not quite right. "He's my life partner, my friend and my spouse," she says. (The Baltimore Sun)

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	WEEK CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	16	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#2	1	2	BOAZ SHARABI	KESHEAT NOGAAT BE
#3	4	2	VIA	HITMAN 9
#4	5	17	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA — BEST OF
#5	NEW	7	ETHNIX	BRUCHIM HABAIM LE YISRAEL
#6	16	9	YEHUDA POLIKER	MEUCHAR ULAI MUKDAM
#7	7	3	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MISHAL ATZMI
#8	6	6	FIVE	FIVE
#9	18	2	VIA	HAZMANA LEMACHOL
#10	3	3	VIA	ALABINA
#11	11	7	MICHA SHEETRI	MASHMERIM VNOTZOT
#12	10	1	VIA	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#13	8	26	ARIEL HOROWITZ	YALLAH BYE
#14	17	4	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#15	15	19		

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week.



Children adore Bar-Zohar

Yael Bar-Zohar (above) and Michal Yanai are the top TV stars among 7-11 year olds. A nationwide poll conducted by phone-polling company Teleser asked some 2,000 children to name their favorite presenter/TV star. The results found that Bar Zohar has the overall lead with 22 percent among 7-8 year olds and 24% in the 9-11 year olds. Yanai's score was, respectively, 23% and 19%. Gil Sassever (18% and 20%) was number three. They're all stars on the Children's Channel. The percentages plummeted after that, but Dudu Topaz (7% and 13%) and Zvika Hadar (4% and 7%) both made it into the top 10.

— Helen Kaye

Eilat gives a platform to local jazz

By HELEN KAYE

Fair's fair, and while the Red Sea Jazz Festival organizers make more noise about the visiting names, (like Diana Krall and Larry Coryell) they don't slight the local performers.

This year's contingent at Eilat Port from August 24-27 runs the gamut from the Air Force Orchestra to the avant garde sounds of Slava Ganelin and Esi Kenan-Ofri with salsa, ethnojazz, fusion and standards among the rest.

There are 10 featured acts in 16 programs commissioned by the festival, combining established and up-and-coming talents. The emphasis is on jazz arrangements for Israeli and ethno-Jewish music and there are also some works written especially for the festival.

Besides those mentioned above, the biblical *Song of Songs*, recently so gloriously realized by Gil Shohat, goes jazz in a work by Nahum Preferkovitch. Sax-

ophonist Albert Piamanta describes his program, *Camun Plus*, as jazz standards with Mediterranean spices.

In *Piquet Bop* guitarist Meir Ben Michael marries hard bop with Moroccan liturgies. Jazz couple Iris and Ofer Portugali present their own compositions, while the Jerusalem Salsa Band mixes that intoxicating rhythm with local strains. The Boris Gomer In-Out Quartet shakes together jazz rock, Jewish/Israeli soul and their own music, guitarist Eyal Maoz and his Lemon Juice improvise Israeli style, and Confusion, comprising among others guitarist Itay Laski and bassist Assaf Koppler, takes on fusion, punk, and Latin jazz.

A competition for the best new work and showcase opportunities for young hopefuls are all part of the festival's ongoing effort to promote the local jazz culture, and naturally the performers will jam with the visitors into the night around the pool at the Riviera.

Tel Aviv bus station film fare opens

The newest cineplex in Tel Aviv is on the ground floor at the new central bus station: six theaters, each with its own name — Everest, Paradise (Gan-Eden), Gandhi, Chicago, Chekhov and John Wayne. There'll be 12 movies, mostly first runs.

They include *Funny Games*, *The Opium War*, *Looking for Lola*, *Freaks and Men*, the Russian-made prize-winner at Cannes, *Hard Men*, and the comedy *Men Always Lie*. Movie the-

aters at bus stations run the risk of becoming havens for deadbeats, but according to cineplex partner Isaac (Ejou) Shani, tight security will prevent that. The complex has its own entrance on Levisky street and Shani promises that the usherettes "are the prettiest girls in Israel."

The NIS 24 ticket gives its holder unlimited access to all the movies from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. The complex opens to the public July 21.

— Helen Kaye

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Karmiel festival's stamp of success

To honor the recently concluded Karmiel Dance Festival, the Postal Authority has issued a special stamp. Both artistic director Yonatan Carmon and Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar were presented with the stamp at Karmiel's opening ceremony. The colorful NIS 2 stamp has — what else — Israeli folk dancers on it.

More new local movies on the way

The New Foundation for Film and Television has approved funding for either the development or production of another 15 films through the end of 1998: four dramas, six documentaries and five more that are already in various stages of production. The documentaries include one on veteran peace activist Abie Nathan, one on street cats which is already been nearly two years in the making, and one on Jaffa. Dramas include a film on the battle for Tel Hai and a four-part series based on the autobiography of Ora Moring. The films are "an expression of the mosaic that is Israeli society," say New Fund managing director and film-maker Orna Ben David.

Judge Almagor

Actress/writer Gila Almagor was chosen to head the international jury at the 33rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic which ended last night, too late for this column to announce the winner. Almagor's own film, *Avia's Summer*, was a multiple prize-winner and the sequel, *Under the Domino Tree* was also well received on the festival circuit. She returns to start rehearsals in the title role of *Medea* to be directed at Habimah by iconoclast US director Robert Woodruff.

Georgia on my mind

Georgian immigrants have packed a lot of celebrating into five days of cultural and sporting events July 26-30. They will celebrate their absorption into this country, 30 years of their mass immigration, Israel's Jubilee, 100 years of Zionism and 1,600 years of Jewish life in Georgia. The main cultural events are a star-studded gala evening at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv on July 28, and a free happening at the Ashkelon National Park the next night. Bass Paata Burchuladze and two of his equally eminent colleagues are coming from the Tbilisi Opera. Local stars Yardenia Araz and David Deor will share the stage with ex-Georgian vocal and dance ensembles including Kolan and Shalom II. The Absorption Ministry and the Jubilee Association are among the sponsors.

Jubilee Bells still ringing for Ohad Naharin

Choreographer Ohad Naharin, the artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company, performed what he calls a meditation on the events surrounding the Jubilee Bells fiasco at the beginning of Hot Dance month at the Suzanne Dellal Center over the weekend. The dance, "Who Knows One?", included the sound track of messages of support recorded on his answering machine. Also on the program were excerpts from his newest ballet for children, *Za'acha*. The company walked out of the internationally televised Jubilee Bells extravaganza following a politically motivated row over the clothes (or lack of) in "Who Knows One?"

Givatayim gets its own arts center

Peace is the theme behind the opening events at the brand new Givatayim Performing Arts Center which opens on July 23. The programs include a gala concert with Yosef Bardanashvili's *Children of God* performed by David Deor and the Ra'anana Symphony, an evening called *Poets Read Peace*, and the central region premiere of a joint Jordanian/Israeli documentary called *Abraham's Journey*. There'll also be exhibitions of painting and sculpture. Veteran playwright/storyteller/director Yossi Albi is GPAC's general manager. The complex, which is funded by the Givatayim Municipality, has four halls and a central foyer.

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Philharmonia Singers
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Dafna Ben-Yohanan, Chorus Master
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Testing North Irish peace

The mounting crisis at Drumcree in Northern Ireland has been the most serious test the much-praised Irish peace process has had to face, yet it seems unlikely at this stage that it is endangered.

Now the importance of the mandate given the peace agreement by the dual referendums north and south of the Irish border becomes clear. An agreement so ratified by the people and parliaments of Britain and Ireland stands as a challenge to the extremists, who cannot accept that their day is done.

And while extremists on the Orange Unionist side have been making the headlines this week, a splinter group from the republican camps was prepared to cause its share of mayhem with a car bomb in London — happily intercepted because of excellent cooperation between the British and Irish police forces.

As for the Orange Lodge marchers who have tried to defy a lawful ruling by the province's Parades Commission, their siege of Drumcree town and the violence that has accompanied it is a disgrace. A reporter for *The Washington Post* has described the Orange attempt to stage a triumphalist parade through a staunch Catholic and Republican street, in defiance of the law, as comparable to the Ku Klux Klan marching through an American Jewish neighborhood in the United States.

If the British government and security forces stand firm, the crisis should fizzle. The unthinkable alternative is that the violence spirals out of

control into sectarian warfare and the peace process collapses in tatters.

That it has not happened after the burning of Catholic churches by Unionist extremists last week is to the credit of more sensible leadership on both sides. The IRA has remained inactive, and the Unionist leader David Trimble has reminded his intransigent followers that there are rights on both sides of the dispute which must be dealt with by negotiation.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's prompt response in brokering indirect proximity talks between the republican residents of Drumcree and the Orange leaders has been universally welcomed and, as President Bill Clinton commented, is almost sure to defuse the violence and encourage both sides to talk through their differences. Blair has avoided the disastrous path chosen by a previous British government, which first blocked an Orange march through Drumcree, then caved in and allowed it. This time the security forces are standing firm and there can only be one of two outcomes to the standoff — either the law barring the marchers is absolutely upheld, or the marchers and the Drumcree residents negotiate a compromise.

There can be only one victor after this week of unnecessary and vicious conflict and that must be the Irish peace agreement. It was designed and put to the people's vote so that it could not be sabotaged by mobs, or terrorists, or hoodlums, or car bombers. All these must now learn they can no longer prevail against the will for peace.

Taiwan shadow boxing

Taiwan was little comforted by American protestations that the comments made by President Bill Clinton on his recent visit to China represented no departure from previous US policy.

Clinton told his Chinese hosts that Washington does not support Taiwanese independence, or its membership in international organizations based on statehood, or the concept of "two Chinas." The reason for alarm in Taipei was that the wording of the president's comments clearly mirrored Beijing's policy on these three issues, which are commonly known as "the three noes."

Since perception in politics is often more important than substance, a solid bipartisan vote by the US Senate on Friday, reaffirming established American policy on Taiwan, should go a long way to calming nerves in Taipei.

The Senate declaration inevitably will be seen as a case of "what the president really meant to say..." and even Democrats, who said it was unnecessary, agreed it will help to clear the air.

US policy on Taiwan and on its dispute with China, which considers it a renegade province, has been defined for 19 years by the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act. It was that act which the Senate has reaffirmed, although despite

Republican grumbles, no one has suggested Clinton abrogate it. At its core, the act declares that the future of Taiwan "will be determined by peaceful means, with the consent of the people of Taiwan." It also promises to help Taiwan maintain a capacity for self-defense.

Neither the president nor the new Senate vote have changed anything — on the crucial matter of defense aid, the policy remains vague, "to be determined by the president and the Congress." It is therefore hard to see what worries Taiwan. As a matter of fact, the government in Taipei does not support either a two-China or a one-China, one Taiwan, policy either. However Taiwan does believe in active efforts to gain international recognition and this appears to be the most likely area of friction with Washington.

Almost on cue as the Senate voted, China issued a condemnation of Taiwan's latest bid for UN membership, which it launched last week. The bid is certain to be blocked easily by China, but it is Taiwan's effort to break out of its diplomatic isolation which irritates China. This endless shadow boxing has one simple solution — when China can match Taiwan's democratic credentials and practices, the issue of separation or reunification will simply fade away, and the sooner the better.

OPINION



OLEG © 98

Faith: The next frontier

DAVID WEINBERG

have to be driven down on all fours.

For two centuries or more, science has sought to bury religion. Now the tide may be turning. Faith is the next frontier for modern man.

At Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, and Stanford universities the weightiest intellectual debates today revolve around a renewed "dialogue" between science and religion, between the material and the spiritual. As prominent political scientist and theologian Michael Novak wrote recently in *The New York Times*: "a sea change in the realm of ideas is taking place."

The rise of the scientifically knowledgeable modern man — majestically powerful in his abilities to conquer the environment, eradicate disease, and harness the atom — did away, seemingly, with the need for old crutches. Man who was in control of his destiny and could fly to the moon no longer needed ancient wisdoms to soothe him. The weak and fearful, we were told, cling to medieval beliefs: not the brave, not the mature, not the cultured.

But this most atheistic of all centuries, as Vaclav Havel terms it, now may have reached the edge of enlightenment. "Secular humanism is showing its limits, unable to answer the most basic moral questions," writes Novak. Why are our sentiments about justice so strong? Why should we be moral, especially when no one is looking and no one is harmed? And considering the wanton slaughter of millions over this past scientific century, you have to ask: is reason adequate to its own defense?

Significantly, it is the most successful and powerful thinkers of today who are asking these questions, at the peak of their intellectual careers — out of triumph, not weakness. Havel (literature and politics), John Polkinghorne (physics, Cambridge), Allan Sandage (cosmology, Berkeley) and the late Sir Isaiah Berlin (philosophy, Oxford) — are among the elders who found that to discover God one does not

At the turn of the millennium, the findings of science and the reflections of religion have begun to merge

Beginning (a best-seller published worldwide in nine languages) that the very latest scientific discoveries in particle physics, cosmology, molecular biology, geology, and other disciplines bring us into remarkable correlation with the story told in Genesis.

The Vilna Gaon predicted this convergence of disciplines, basing himself on the *Zohar*. The time will come, he wrote hundreds of years ago, when "the gates of knowledge above" ["the heavens" — see Genesis 7:11] and "the fountains of knowledge below" ["the great deep"] will be opened and combined. And indeed, science is becoming today an important tool in clarifying key biblical passages and understanding the holy writ.

George Johnson, author of the 1995 work *Fire in the Mind: Science, Faith and the Search for Order*, recently detailed for *The New York Times* science supplement the intensity of the new discourse. Berkeley (of all places!) has established a \$13 million Center for Theology and the

Natural Sciences and this month held a four-day international conference on "Science and the Spiritual Quest." The American Association for the Advancement of Science is running a \$1.3 million "religion and science dialogue" program. The Templeton Foundation has started a new magazine called *Science and Spirit*, and this fall PBS will broadcast a \$200,000 documentary featuring interviews with scientists about God. Top university presses are publishing on the topic, too. *Quarks, Chaos and Christianity* by Polkinghorne is one of the most colorful books in this genre.

What is the outcome to date of all this "dialogue"? To start with, academics have learned to recognize that both science and religion spring from the human obsession to find order in the world, and that even science is based on a platform of beliefs and assumptions. After all, no one can prove that the universe is mathematical or that the same laws which seem to hold today can be applied to the distant quasars or to the first moments of time. "These are among the core tenets of the faith called science, marking the point at which reasoning can begin," writes Johnson.

As science continues to draw its picture of the physical world, each question it answers inevitably raises more. And thus, the "majesty and grandeur of the cosmos, in its vastness and its stupendous dynamics" — as Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik termed science — has left room for the "morality and majesty of humility." For religious awe.

As we approach the millennium, a new global attempt is under way to reconcile fundamentally different ways of thinking about the world. To boldly go where no modern "enlightened" man has gone before: toward a bridging of the great divide between science and religion. Can we in Israel get past our bitterly divisive religious-secular civil wars in order to join this exciting intellectual adventure?

Only one court guards our rights

DANIEL BLOCH

Israel is the only democracy that has no final court. On the legislative power of parliament. Our Knesset can enact by a majority of 24, at midnight, a law stating that every woman has to wear only *shatzen* (wigs worn by *haredi* women) and long skirts, and nothing can stop the implementation of such a law.

This is possible only because Israel, at its birth, has no constitution that provides checks and balances on the powers of the legislative branch of government. We don't even have a requirement for a quorum before voting on new legislation. We are alone the only country that does not have an upper house of parliament. Nor do we give the head of state any veto powers and we do not have a constitutional court, either as a separate institution, or as an integral part of the Supreme Court.

This constitutional vacuum is filled by the Supreme Court. It was a great and decisive miracle for Israel's democracy to have had some great men and women of honesty, integrity, and courage to sit on the bench for the last 50 years. Without pre-planning, step by step, they succeeded in blending the best of the constitutional laws and traditions of the British, American, and other Western democracies with the wisdom of Jewish law and tradition.

Together they made Israel a bastion of democracy in an area that is not famous for the rule of democratic justice. They succeeded in preventing Israel from falling into the trap that many new countries in a state-of-war fall into — excessive government power that leads to abolishing democracy and installing fascist dictatorship.

Unlike many countries in a similar situation, Israel remained a true democracy, preserving civil liberties, minority rights, freedom of speech, press, and association. This is mainly because of the Supreme Court. Moreover, this happened in a country most of whose citizens came from areas that did not have a democratic tradition.

The justices of our Supreme Court understood the enormous historical responsibility facing them: building a new democratic society, preserving liberties, minority rights, the rule of law, and justice for all, while enabling the government to ensure the survival of the Jewish state and preserving the welfare of all its citizens. Together with our army and scientific institutions, our legal system is the pillar that make us proud to be Israelis and an integral part of the modern and enlightened world.

The great success story of our judicial system does not mean that it is above criticism. But we must remember that, in the absence of a constitution, or a constitutional national consensus, it is the only body presiding over the checks and balances in our society. It is the only body that is able to limit the dangerous inclination towards abuses of power by the government and it is the only limitations against arbitrary and un-democratic legislation by the Knesset. The mere existence of the Supreme Court prevents many abuses of power.

Whenever political horse-trading gains momentum, all parties concerned must, their agreements might be reviewed by the court. They already understand their limitations without the need to be dragged before the court. But some do not like it. Therefore the attacks against the court, mainly by the religious parties, are the manipulation of those who do not want Israel to be a liberal democratic society, but want it to be ruled by dogmatic rabbis in the style of Khomeini's Iran.

It is strange that the Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who comes from the now deceased Liberal Party, chose the style of Shas to criticize the court. There is a place for a public debate on the role of the Supreme Court in our society. We need a binding constitution that will define civil rights, limit the authority of the government and Knesset, and define the criteria upon which the Supreme Court acts to preserve the constitution. There is a place to discuss the pros and cons of a separate constitutional court.

But all of that has to be done in a framework of a pure constitutional debate and without threatening the authority of the present court until a different consensus is reached. We have only one court today that defends and preserves our democratic rights, and we must not allow any diminishing of its prestige and authority.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNWARRANTED AUTHENTICITY

Sir, — From the moment the current controversy with the Reform and Conservative movements began, I have been troubled and bewildered by the sudden authenticity granted to them.

They demand the right to sit on religious councils, when they themselves are totally irreligious; they want to participate in the conversion ceremony, converting non-Jews into Jews, yet they themselves do not behave like Jews. For the first time since the Reform movement was introduced, people are taking them seriously, instead of seeing them for what they are —

a mockery and an insult to everything that Judaism represents.

It is noteworthy that Reform was never condoned by Jewry's sages, and it is difficult to see how a group of laymen of any religion have the right to initiate reforms to its structure without the consent and blessings of its religious leaders.

Frankly, in any other religion, this would not be tolerated, and I fail to see why it should be any more acceptable in our's. A case in point is that of English Protestantism, which was founded by King Henry the Eighth, who, for personal reasons, wanted a

change from Catholicism. A second is Christianity, founded by people who wanted to go modern and opt out of Judaism.

The solution in both of these cases was to form a new religion, "Protestantism" and "Christianity" respectively — not "Reform Catholicism" or "Reform Judaism." You cannot take a giraffe, shorten its neck, reshape its legs, give it horns, whiskers and a bushy tail, and then call it a Reformed Giraffe!

ELIEZER CHRYSLER
Jerusalem.

AMERICA'S DECLINE

Sir, — It amazes me that in the current public debate concerning the next withdrawal from parts of Judea and Samaria, America's steady decline in world politics seems to be totally overlooked.

I am sure there is a direct link between the Iraqi debacle and the nuclear muscle making of both India and Pakistan. President Clinton's failure to act against Iraq

in the latest Gulf crisis has shown the world that there is nothing to fear from the US on the one hand, and no aid to expect on the other. Why does everyone else understand this, including the Serbs, whereas only Israel feels it should yield to American pressure?

Due to scandals at home and failures abroad, President Clinton is sitting in the White House as a lame

duck. He does not even enjoy the support of the American Congress. Considering the above, the Netanyahu government would do well to redefine its policies towards the American administration, and act solely in our interests, which is to hold its ground.

A. HALFF-GEIMAN
Givat Ze'ev.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 12, 1933, *The Palestine Post* protested that in the digging, quarrying and leveling operations of road construction between Jerusalem and Jericho there were 300 workers employed, of whom not one was a Jew. The mandatory government was reminded of the undertaking given to Dr. Chaim Weizmann in February, 1931, to employ 36.6 percent Jews in public works while so far only about

12 percent were employed. 50 years ago: On July 12, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported the capture of Lod and the cutting off of Ramle. Jerusalem was, for the first time in its history, bombed from the air. An Egyptian Spitfire killed three children and wounded another.

The capture of Beit Naballa freed the encircled Ben Shimon, but the Egyptian Army, which suffered heavy losses, exerted an

increased pressure on Negba.

25 years ago: On July 12, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the O.C. Southern Command, Aluf Ariel ("Arik") Sharon was leaving the IDF after 25 years of active service and was expected to join the Liberal Party and run as Gahal candidate in the October Knesset elections.

Alexander Zvielli

1500000

Orwell's Big Brother list

George Orwell, who warned of the dangers of an authoritarian world, wasn't above informing his government about 'crypto-communists'

Vanora Bennett reveals



Orwell's list: Even his own friends did not escape mention.

In 1984, George Orwell's bleak fantasy of life in a nightmarish authoritarian world, *Big Brother* is everywhere and denunciations are the stuff of everyday life. The state monitors ordinary homes. Children inform on their parents, and parents on their colleagues. Privacy is banned.

In an era of clashing ideologies, Orwell's terrifying depiction of the ways in which an all-powerful state could destroy individual human dignity, published in 1949, won him fame as an opponent of totalitarianism.

But, it has emerged, Orwell wasn't above a little informing himself. A suspected Britain learned two years ago that the author had denounced "crypto-communist" writers and academics in the West to the government. Now the names are coming out.

Last week, many of the British and American literary and establishment figures who are featured on his *Big Brother* list of suspects were identified for the first time in a new complete edition of his work, published by Secker & Warburg. The edition isn't being published by a US outlet but is being distributed in the US by Secker, says the publisher.

"I don't suppose it will tell your friends anything they don't know," the author wrote in a 1949 cover note as he handed over the list of 130 "fellow travelers," secret party members and cocktail-party communist sympathizers known unkindly by Soviet state founder V.I. Lenin as "useful idiots."

As well as the most openly leftist of British intellectuals, including writers George Bernard Shaw and J.B. Priestley, Orwell listed actor Charlie Chaplin, singer Paul Robeson, filmmaker Orson Welles and novelist John Steinbeck — whom he also excoriated in a brutal commentary as a "spurious writer" and "pseudo-naïf."

Even his own friends, including

the poet Stephen Spender, did not escape mention. Spender was listed as a "sentimental sympathizer, and very unreliable. Easily influenced. Tendency towards homosexuality."

If the people on his list "could get inside the Labor Party as an organized body," Orwell warned, "they might be able to do enormous mischief."

As a writer distressed by the social inequities of European life earlier this century, Orwell — and thousands of other intellectuals from all over Europe — had gone to Spain during the civil war of the 1930s to fight against fascism. But his exposure there to some of the more lurid Communist and Stalinist extremist groups on his own side left him with an enduring distrust of the far Left.

Orwell suffered personally from the actions of apologists for the Soviet system, says Peter Davison, editor of the 20-volume *Complete Works of George Orwell*.

Stalin's friends in England tried to stop the publication of another Orwell attack on totalitarianism, *Animal Farm*. It was turned down by publisher Victor Gollancz — on the grounds that it would damage the Soviet image in the West — and by Jonathan Cape, who took the

advice of an anonymous official in the World War II-era Ministry of Information.

Davison believes the official was Peter Smollett, chief of the ministry's Russian section, who figures on Orwell's list as "almost certainly agent of some kind."

THE author made the list two years into a battle with the tuberculosis

and guesswork. He would cross off names or add question marks to entries if he later changed his mind. Of the 130 names in his notebook, he passed only 35 on to Kirwan.

Orwell's supporters stress that his list, offered cautiously and without fanfare, was in sharp contrast to the blanket denunciations and anti-Communist hysteria of the McCarthy era in America.

'It isn't a bad idea to have the people who are probably unreliable listed,' wrote the author who depicted the all-powerful state so bleakly

West holding the idealistic promise of the 1940s that had been fashionable earlier in the century. Many of the evils of Stalinism had already been made public.

"What did it mean to be pro-Soviet in 1949?" columnist Anne Applebaum asked in the *London Evening Standard* in a passionate defense of Orwell. "In 1949, transcripts of show trials had been published, Gulag survivors' memoirs had appeared, the existence of mass murders was known."

"In 1949, more to the point," she added, "the Soviet Union was still actively engaged in trying to undermine Western democracies, even the democracies of the English-speaking races. To sympathize with the Soviet Union in 1949 was to sympathize with a political ideology whose ideas and weapons really did threaten the most fundamental principles of our civilization."

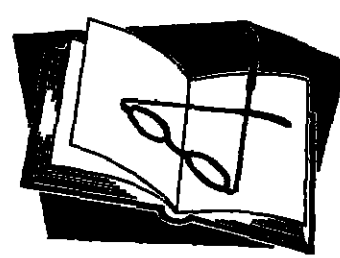
Bill Hamilton, with the London literary agency, A.M. Heath, that represents Davison, also said he believes there was no moral ambiguity in Orwell's action.

"What he did was a legitimate exercise, particularly in 1949," Hamilton said. "It was serious life-or-death stuff then."

(Los Angeles Times)

What money can't buy

Book Review



By Carole Goldberg

OK, OK, the rich are not so very different from you and me.

Sure, they get to wear cashmere socks and have summer homes on private islands and Welsh nannies who make Mary Poppins look like Louise Woodward.

But money can't buy them love, or enduring marriages, or happy children.

It can, though, get them really nice apartments with private elevators on Park Avenue.

That, in a gilded nutshell, is

ple, though alarmingly repressed, and we warm to them.

We learn a little about how they got that way through Robinson's not-so-gentle portraits of their parents, WASPY caricatures all.

Peter's dad, Dr. Chatfield, is a binoculars-bedecked bird-watcher who lives a life of crabbiness, shabby gentility. Emma's mom is the kind of hostess who serves a wan bowlful of Campbell's Tomato Soup diluted with water, not milk, to welcome her daughter's new love.

Her dad is a know-it-all professor who bullies his wife — which may explain Emma's odd attraction to Warren.

For the first part of the book, we see things from Emma's point of view and sympathize with her struggle to incorporate sullen, stubborn Amanda into her new life with Peter and Tess.

Amanda is bratty and not

Try as one might to keep an unbiased heart, it can be difficult to commiserate with people who have every advantage, yet cannot find a way to enjoy life

one of the problems with Roxana Robinson's new novel, *This Is My Daughter*.

Try as one might to keep an unbiased heart, it can be difficult to commiserate with people who have every advantage, yet cannot find a way to enjoy life.

When the novel opens, we are introduced to Emma, then wife of smug Warren, mother of darling Tess and soon to become lover and then spouse of dashing Peter.

Not to mention reluctant mom to Amanda, stepdaughter from hell.

At first we see Emma as Ally McBeal-ish, an intriguing blend of sharp intellect and abysmal self-esteem who is about to shed an execrable hubby and blossom into a savvy grown-up with a man who really deserves her.

A Smith College graduate, she is much too bright to ever have fallen for the insufferable Warren, a vain snob who takes unholy pleasure in making her feel insecure.

Peter, too, is leaving a horror of a mate.

That would be Caroline, a Southern-fried social climber who largely drops the mothering of Amanda into her nanny's lap.

Emma and Peter are nice peo-

above hurting the younger step-sister of whom she is understandably jealous.

She has absorbed Caroline's white-hot hostility toward Peter, resents Emma and misses her loving nanny, who was let go when life got downsized due to divorce.

Then Robinson pulls a switch. The second part is told from Amanda's point of view, and she turns out to be surprisingly sympathetic.

This unexpected 180° turn may give some readers literary whiplash.

All the tensions culminate in a horrific accident that dominates the last third of the book.

Through great pain, everyone is forced, finally, to open up and recognize the deep bonds they have been refusing to acknowledge.

This is no mean feat for people who know everything about good manners, but have a sadly deficient grasp of human emotion.

Made at last to look beneath life's surface glitter, these favored few learn some truths about what money can never buy.

And the reader, despite initial skepticism, comes away with a better understanding of what makes a life truly rich.

(The Hartford Courant)

Treating sewage seriously

Earthly Concerns



By Dvora Ben Shaul

A ruling was handed down less than a month ago by three Supreme Court justices, giving the Safed Municipality 90 days in which to notify the court of the steps it would take to stop the pollution of the Kinneret by sewage from the city.

It marked one of the most important successes ever in a battle that has been going on for more than a decade.

Actually it is more like two decades since the Israel Nature Reserves Authority unsuccessfully attempted to delay the opening of Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital, on account of the hospital's raw sewage, which flowed directly through the

Nahal Amud Nature Reserve into the Kinneret.

Since then not only has nothing been done to improve this situation; matters have gotten even worse.

Safed has grown both in size and population, more factories have opened, and today both domestic and industrial sewage flow untreated down to the lake, Israel's principal surface water reservoir.

A succession of mayors and municipal councils have failed to take any serious or practical steps to halt this pollution or ameliorate the situation; but now, in answer to a petition filed by the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (IUED), the court has decided that Safed must take action — and has set a limited time for the municipality to report back to it.

This was not the first court decision concerning Safed's sewage treatment, or lack of it.

In January, 1997, Tiberias Judge Ron Shapiro ruled that Nof Kinneret, the newly built housing complex between Rosh Pina and Safed, was to remain unoccupied until proper facilities for sewage treatment were implemented.

Shapiro made it clear that con-



Water samples being taken from the Kinneret: Industrial sewage is one of the lake's most serious pollutants.

(Sarit Uziely)

tractors and developers were going to have to start regarding proper sewage disposal as an integral part of infrastructure.

Attention was paid to water supply, telephone and electricity lines and access roads, he noted, because without them no one would live in the housing; just because the occupants of a development didn't see where their sewage went did not make it less important, he said.

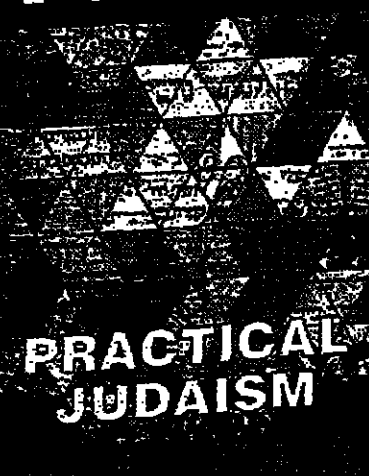
In addition to the untreated or, in some cases, only partially treated domestic sewage effluents, the industrial sewage from Safed that flows down to the Kinneret includes sludge and effluent from Elite's instant coffee factory, from garages, work shops, food processing facilities and the hospital.

Not only does this sewage form one of the most serious pollutants of the Kinneret; the entire Nahal Amud Nature Reserve is affected by the odors and the unsightly sludge.

There are posters warning people not to drink from any water in the reserve, but some hikers, coming across what seems like a "clean pool," have yielded to thirst and, in almost every case, become ill.

This ruling is just one more small step in the effort to clean up Israel's polluted water supplies.

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pathologists can increase this rate, the authors conclude, as has occurred in the Rabin Medical ter after weeks or just a few severely and lymphoma cells cancerous cells, and, during chemotherapy, does not cause nausea or hair loss.

Thalidomide makes a comeback bid

By TERENCE MONAHAN

Imagine Jack the Ripper becoming prime minister, or the deadly Ebola virus turning into a boon to human health. Such a mind-boggling reversal of fortune is under way for one of the most horrifying medications of modern times: thalidomide.

The drug was notorious for causing thousands of birth defects and infant deaths in the 1950s and early '60s in Europe and Canada. Now it is being tested in labs around the world as a possible new treatment for many diseases including leprosy, rheumatoid arthritis, complications of tuberculosis and AIDS, and breast, prostate and brain cancer.

"It could be one of the wonder drugs of the 21st century in terms of the range of diseases it might be effective against," said Dr. Norman Fost, a pediatrician at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and director of the medical ethics program there.

The resurgence of thalidomide, which was originally marketed as a tranquilizer and sleeping aid, presents physicians, pharmacists and patients with numerous problems. The biggest, of course, is how to prevent another epidemic of birth defects.

By the time use of the drug was restricted in the early 1960s, 10,000 to 12,000 "thalidomide babies" had been born worldwide to women who took it during pregnancy. Half of them died in infancy.

The Food and Drug Administration did not approve thalidomide for general use in the US, largely because of unanswered questions about its toxicity. In 1962, Congress rewarded the agency's caution by granting it greatly expanded powers to regulate drugs. Now, in a move fraught with irony and danger, the agency seems likely to approve thalidomide.

Initially, the drug is expected to be recommended as a treatment

for skin lesions associated with a type of leprosy. But once that door opens, researchers and agency officials say, there may be little to keep doctors from prescribing the drug for other ailments.

The FDA and the drug's manufacturer have planned extraordinary safeguards to prevent birth defects. Among other things, women of childbearing age will have to submit a negative pregnancy test before receiving the drug and agree to use at least two birth-control methods. Still, government health officials say tragedy appears inevitable.

"If thalidomide is made available in the US, it will be used by women of childbearing potential, and babies will be born with thalidomide birth defects," said Dr. Cynthia Moore of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's probably true, unfortunately," added FDA official Dr. Debra Birnkrant.

It's comeback bid can be traced to a chance clinical observation in the mid-1960s: When doctors in Israel gave the sedative to people with a type of leprosy called erythema nodosum leprosum, it unexpectedly cleared up many of the skin lesions.

Since then, physicians have used thalidomide for that condition, said Dr. Stephen Rea, a leprosy expert at the University of Southern California's School of Medicine. (US physicians caring for leprosy patients had FDA permission to obtain the drug from overseas labs or other sources on a "compassionate use" basis.)

In 1996, Celgene, which sponsored recent studies on thalidomide, applied for FDA approval to sell the drug for leprosy. In October the agency sent the company an "approvable letter," indicating that the application was likely to go through.

If the drug were exclusively for the estimated 5,000 Americans suffering from leprosy, there would be little concern from government - and little interest from the industry. But even Celgene acknowledges that it is setting its sights on other applications, such as AIDS, and possibly cancer.

"Our interest is clearly not just in leprosy," said the company's vice president for sales, Bruce Williams. Regarding the danger of birth defects, he said: "Our objective is to develop and manage a distribution system with the goal of no failures."

Traditionally the FDA has not kept physicians from prescribing drugs explicitly approved for one disease to treat another, unspecified ailment - a practice known as "off-label" use.

The agency has sent mixed signals over whether it would permit off-label prescribing of thalidomide, or invoke seldom-used regulatory power to prohibit it. Still, Birnkrant, head of the FDA's thalidomide working group, emphasized in an interview that doctors are ultimately responsible for prescribing the drug safely.

"It's really something between a physician and his or her patient," she said, adding that physicians who prescribe a drug for off-label

purposes are especially vulnerable to malpractice claims if things go wrong.

But some experts oppose letting physicians prescribe the drug at will. "I think there should be a prohibition of off-label use," said Fost, of Wisconsin. He added that thalidomide should be regulated as a "controlled substance," like morphine, which can be prescribed only under narrowly defined circumstances and is closely monitored by state and federal authorities.

Despite thalidomide's risks, it has fervent advocates. Some argue that many prescription drugs - especially the highly toxic ones used in cancer chemotherapy - are known to be capable of causing serious birth defects, but that does not deprive female patients of the benefits.

And thalidomide? Fost said American society should try to reach a "social consensus" on the number of birth defects that would be "acceptable," given the drug's benefits. (The Los Angeles Times)

How good is bed rest for moms-to-be?

By DIAN LAND

Telling women with high-risk pregnancies to lie down and rest has been doctors' conventional advice for years. But a study at the University of Wisconsin's School of Nursing has found that such inactivity can have harmful side effects.

Published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Women's Health*, the research also showed that obstetricians vary greatly in the degree of restriction ordered for the same problem - from modest limitation of activity to complete bed rest, with no bathroom privileges.

"Physicians should know about this tremendous variability, as should the women whose lives and health can be so dramatically affected by bed rest," said associate professor Judith Maloni, who directs a \$1.7 million research program investigating bed rest in pregnancy.

Maloni expects her research will yield strategies to prevent and treat the adverse side effects, and guide post-partum rehabilitation. Maloni first documented the deleterious effects of extended bed rest during pregnancy in a 1993 study.

She noted psychological repercussions such as depression, anxiety and boredom; and physical effects, such as headache, muscle atrophy and weight loss, which is undesirable during pregnancy.

Maloni also observed striking effects in the women well after they delivered their babies, including continuing depression, difficulty walking up and down stairs, deep soreness in back and leg muscles, and slowness in resuming normal daily activities.

In her first studies, Maloni took a cue from aerospace researchers, who used bed rest as a model for understanding the weightlessness astronauts experience in space. They found that the consequences of extended bed rest were widespread, severe and quick to appear.

"Physicians soon applied this knowledge to surgical, cardiac and geriatric patients, urging them all to 'get out of bed to prevent those bad side effects,'" she said. "But bed rest remains the conventional treatment for women with complicated pregnancies."

NEARLY 700,000 women with problematic pregnancies are sent to bed each year.

Prescribed most often for conditions such as preterm labor, pregnancy-related hypertension, slow fetal growth, twin pregnancies, placenta previa and incompetent cervix, bed rest is thought to improve blood flow to the uterus and reduce physical forces that might stimulate dilation.

In the current study, Maloni and her co-investigators surveyed 44 directors of maternal/fetal medicine, academic specialists who generally treat only women with high-risk pregnancies, and 47 general obstetricians with mixed practices.

The surveys contained questions about home and hospital bed rest, and whether or not side effects were observed. Physicians were also asked to indicate type and degree of activity restriction they would prescribe for 16 different scenarios.

Data analysis revealed that a broad spectrum of between 89 percent and 93 percent of obstetricians surveyed prescribed from four to 20 weeks of bed rest for complicated pregnancies.

Most were unaware of any significant physical or psychological

side effects of the treatment.

"This is troubling because post-partum women are being discharged in a deconditioned state without receiving any recommendations on symptoms they can expect during their recovery and how they can get help," said Maloni, who organizes support groups of pregnant women relegated to bed in local hospitals.

The study also showed great variability between and within physician groups.

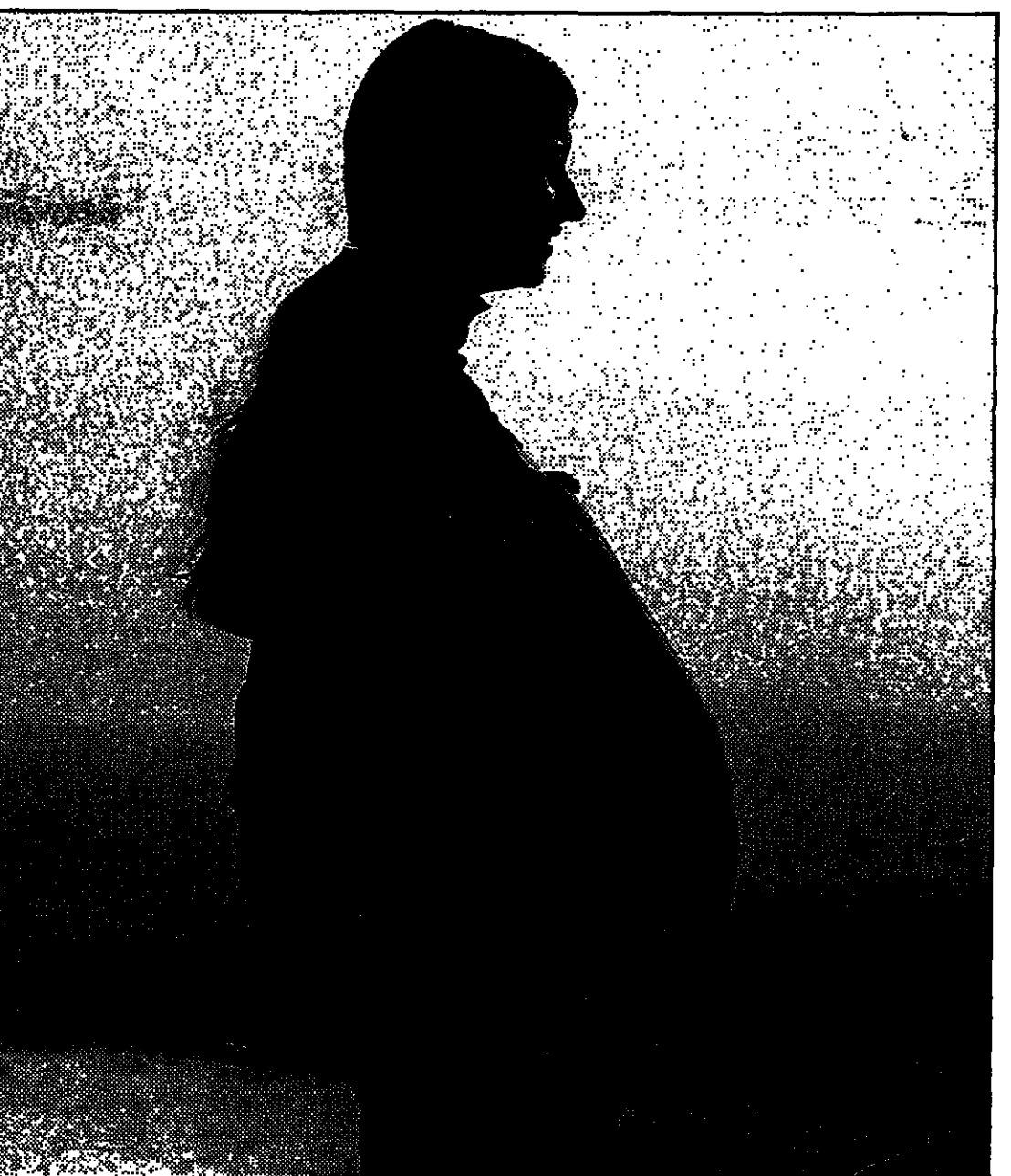
For women carrying twins, for example, 23% of the specialists prescribed no restriction, 7% limited activity at home, more than 32% home bed rest with bathroom privileges, and 23% strict home bed rest without bathroom privileges.

Over 4% gave orders for limited

bed rest at the hospital, 46% bed rest with bathroom privileges at the hospital and nearly 5% stricter bed rest at the hospital.

"The treatment variability for this obstetric complications and the others we studied tells us there appears to be no standard protocol for prescribing bed rest in pregnancy," Maloni said. "The decision seems to be based solely on individual physician practice style."

Maloni suggests that the moment women learn they may have complicated pregnancies, they seek second opinions, especially from specialists. Women should also ask obstetricians how they treat high-risk pregnancies, and if they are aware of any negative side effects of bed rest. (University of Wisconsin News Service)



A new study shows that women with high-risk pregnancies who stay in bed may get depressed, anxious and bored - and lose weight, which isn't desirable during pregnancy. (Mike Goldberg)

I wish I could savor my food



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

I am a 91-year-old man whose enjoyment of life is marred by the fact of having recently lost my sense of smell and allied sense of taste - except for very strong flavors like mint, lime juice and curry.

My doctor says the cause is a blockage of two small apertures in the nose, and adds that there is no cure.

Is there really nothing to be done? Will I never smell a rose or relish my food again? K.W.H., Jerusalem

Prof. Jona Kronenberg, head of the ear nose and throat department of Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, answers:

According to your description of the problem, a nasal blockage is preventing you from smelling odors - in other words, the free flow of air through your nose has been impaired.

The sense of smell is based in the roof of the nose, so if air carrying odors isn't reaching this spot, one can't smell. Only in unusual cases - although it does happen more often among the elderly - does the olfactory nerve stop functioning and the sense of smell disappear.

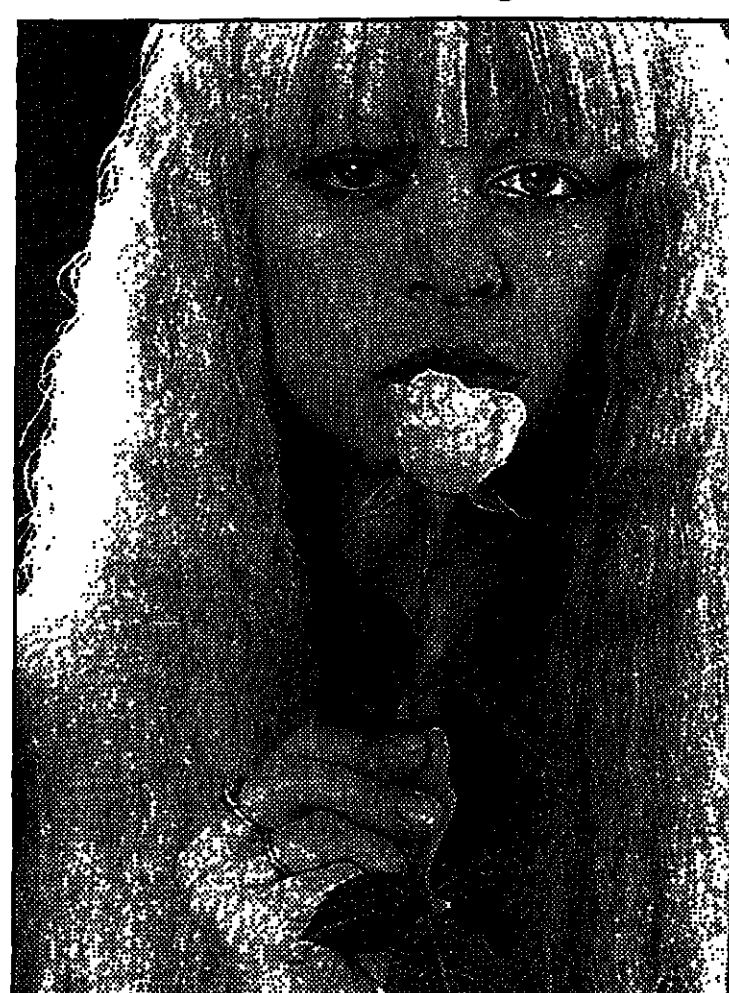
An impaired sense of smell, in turn, disables one's sense of taste: Try pinching your nostrils shut and trying to differentiate between eating a small piece of apple and onion. With your nostrils closed, you won't be able to.

There can be many reasons for an impaired flow of air through the nose: You may have polyps - which are almost always benign - or a chronic inflammation, or rhinitis (runny nose). These can be treated.

It's hard to conceive of a "blockage of two small apertures in the nose" that can't be treated. And, when breathing improves, in most cases the sense of smell returns.

A ear-nose-and-throat specialist will examine you with a rhinoscope; you should also undergo a computerized tomography (CT) scan of your nose and sinuses.

Treatments are getting better and better. One way to remove polyps is endoscopic surgery, which is possible even at your age.



The senses of taste and smell are intimately linked - but they can often be regained by those who have lost them. (Workradio)

I am a widower with two teenage boys and a 12-and-a-half-year-old girl. I don't know much about "women's matters." My daughter recently got her first menstrual period, but then the second didn't come a month later. In fact, it's three weeks late.

How regularly do periods come in a young girl - and is there any reason to worry? R.P., Kiryat Ono

Dr. Rahel Adatto-Levy, a senior gynecologist at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, replies: Just as menstrual periods are usually irregular before menopause, they are frequently irregular when a young girl starts getting them.

And they can stay that way for months, or even longer. The important thing is that your daughter's periods started at the right age, and that she is developing in a normal way.

I tell my patients and their parents not to worry unless periods aren't coming every month by age 17 or 18.

I am a healthy 35-year-old man. A few months ago I started playing soccer every Friday afternoon. I've noticed that the toenails on my right foot are

now speckled with a lot of white. The left foot is normal.

Is there any connection between the sport and my nails? If so, is there any reason to worry, or do anything about it? A.C., Rehovot

Prof. Sarah Brenner, chief of dermatology at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, comments:

White spots can be caused by kicking a ball, which causes the shoe to put pressure on the toenail. This isn't dangerous, and it will pass; no permanent damage will result. (By the way, as children we used to be told that getting white specks on your nails means you're about to receive a present; I've never found this to be true.)

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

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Loud and clear: A new surgical technique to help preserve hearing

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

A new surgical technique that preserves the hearing of patients with a tumor on their auditory nerve has been introduced at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

The technique involves an advanced monitoring system that follows the activity of the auditory nerve and hearing channels in the lower brain.

In many cases, neurosurgeons

can thus save the hearing of patients if the nerve was not damaged by the tumor before the surgery.

Benign tumors on this vital nerve develop over a long period of time.

At first, the patient doesn't feel anything, but he then begins to sense a hearing problem or tinnitus (buzzing in the ear, which in most cases is not due to a tumor). It becomes dangerous when the tumor grows and presses on the lower brain, causing weakness on one side of the body, and even death.

Prof. Zvi Rappaport, head of Beilinson's neurosurgery department, noted that in the Seventies, "surgeons were focused completely on removing the growth to save life."

"Then they started monitoring facial nerves to prevent paralysis of half the face; during neurosurgery, now they are monitoring the auditory nerve to preserve hearing."

AUTOPSIES DOWN

The rate of autopsies has dropped not only in Israel - where it's probably the lowest in the developed countries - but even in the US.

Fifty years ago, pathologists conducted a post-mortem on 60% of people who died, while today they do so on only approximately 10-12%.

The most common explanation for this is that modern imaging and other diagnostic techniques have made most autopsies unnecessary - even though a study published 13 years ago in the *American Journal of Medicine* found that as many as 40% of doctors' diagnosis were shown after a post mortem to have been incorrect.

Since then this figure has dropped somewhat, but many fatal conditions, especially in young people, remain incorrectly diagnosed.

These undiagnosed conditions could have important implications

for the deceased patient's relatives.

Dr. Iris Barshack and Dr. Yuri Kopolovic, pathologists at Sheba Hospital, write in a recent issue of *Harefuah* about the vicious cycle of autopsies: As fewer are performed, fewer medical students learn the importance of autopsies. In addition, doctors fear that autopsies will prove them wrong and serve as the legal basis for malpractice suits.

In Israel, the matter is complicated by superstitions, laws promoted by the religious parties and the halachic imperative of burying the dead as soon as possible.

During the Fifties, Sheba pathologists used to perform 700 autopsies a year; but despite the tremendous growth in the population since then, this figure has dropped to below 150.

Better cooperation between doctors treating patients and the pathologists can increase this rate, the authors conclude, as has occurred in the Rabin Medical

Center's Hasharon Campus, where it increased from 1.8% to 26.7%.

BETTER TB DRUG

The Health Ministry hopes that the first anti-tuberculosis drug developed in 25 years will be available here in the near future, following its approval by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The drug would be distributed to TB patients at ministry-affiliated DOTs (directly-observed therapy, short course) centers.

Named rapentine, the medication is advantageous because it reduces the number of treatments needed to cure TB, making it more likely the patient will complete the therapy.

Conventional therapy requires downing many pills daily for two months and then twice a week for four months.

But since patients feel much better after weeks or just a few months of taking the pills, many are tempted to stop taking them -

which leads to the development of resistant TB strains which are even harder to knock out.

Experts at the New Jersey Medical School National TB Center in Newark said rapentine is taken twice a week for two months (along with three other daily pills), followed by four months of once-a-week treatment.

SKIN LYMPHOMA TREATMENT

Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem has purchased the country's first extracorporeal photopheresis machine of its kind for treating lymphoma of the skin. This constitutes a tenth of all lymphomas and is the second most common type after lymphoma of the intestine.

It first appears as a flat rash on the skin, like eczema, but then it doesn't pass, and even worsens. Later, the skin reddens, itches severely and lymphoma cells reach the blood and the bone marrow, becoming leukemia.

Conventional treatment in early stages includes ultraviolet radiation with PUVA, which is used also on psoriasis patients. PUVA radiation increases the biological sensitivity of the cells to UV. This can cause the cancerous cells to disappear from the skin, but it has no effect when the tumor has spread beyond the skin. Yale University experts tried to find a way to use UV against lymphoma cells in the blood.

Using extracorporeal photopheresis, a needle is inserted into the patient's vein and blood is removed for putting into a centrifuge for separating the lymphocytes from the serum.

The lymphocytes are then turned into a thin film and exposed to UV light; they are then returned to the body.

Initially performed once a fortnight, the treatment is continued if it gets good results. It can kill the cancerous cells, and, unlike chemotherapy, does not cause nausea or hair loss.

Burke runs riot in Wallabies' win over All Blacks

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Fullback Matthew Burke scored a record 24 points to lead Australia to a 24-16 win over New Zealand in the opening match of the tri-nations series yesterday.

Burke scored two tries and kicked four penalties and a conversion to lead the Wallabies to their first victory over the All Blacks since 1994.

New Zealand also scored two tries but were let down by their goal kicking, flyhalf Andrew Mehrtens landing just two shots compared to Burke's five.

"I suppose at the end of the day it was our goal kicking that got us home but I really think we deserved to win," said Australia captain John Eales.

"We were under a lot of pressure and our defense was just outstanding."

Burke's tally bettered South African Jamie De Beer's record of 22 for the most points in a single match against New Zealand and also lifted him above David Campese as Australia's second most prolific points scorer.

He scored both of his tries in the first half, the Wallabies overturning an 8-0 deficit to lead 15-13 at the break, and kept Australia

in front in the second period with his accurate kicking.

New Zealand took the lead against the run of play with a Mehrtens penalty in the 21st minute then stretched their lead to eight points when flanker Josh Kronfeld burrowed his way over from a driving maul three minutes later.

But the Wallabies hit back almost immediately when Burke, whose first shot at goal had struck the post, opened his account with a penalty.

He ran in the first of his two tries three minutes later when he picked the ball up from the back of the ruck and burst through the defense to score near the post.

He scored again in the 35th minute after center Daniel Herbert split the defense and sent him on an unimpeded gallop to the line.

"In times gone by when we went down early on against the All Blacks, as we usually did, we tended to panic a bit. But we didn't do that tonight. We really stuck to our game plan," Eales said.

The All Blacks, who had won their previous seven matches against Australia, scored their second try on the stroke of halftime when lock Ian Jones scored in the corner



SHACKLED — New Zealand's Jeff Wilson is tackled by Australia's Matt Cockbain (above) and Joe Roff.

after backing up a break by Mehrtens and Jeff Wilson.

Mehrtens had the chance to put the visitors back in front shortly after the restart but missed his penalty attempt.

He missed two other shots which proved costly as Burke landed a massive goal from his own half and another from close range to give Australia a 21-13 lead.

Mehrtens succeeded with a shot at goal in the 60th minute to cut the margin to five points but another goal from Burke in the 69th minute secured Australia's win.

Australia — 15-Matthew Burke, 14-Ben Tane, 13-Daniel Herbert, 12-Tim Horan, 11-Joe Roff, 10-Stephen Larkham, 9-George Gregan, 8-Toutai Kefu (Willie Osheben), 7-Owen Finegan, 6-Matthew Cockbain, 5-John Eales (captain), 4-Tom Bowden, 3-Andrew Blay, 2-Phil Kearns, 1-Richard Harry (Dan Crowley).
New Zealand — 15-Christian Cullen, 14-Jeff Wilson, 13-Scott McLeod (Carlos Spencer), 12-Walter Little, 11-Joel Vili (Jonah Lomu), 10-Andrew Mehrtens, 9-Justin Marshall, 8-Taine Randall (captain), 7-Josh Kronfeld, 6-Michael Jones (Isatolo Maka), 5-Robin Brooke, 4-Ian Jones, 3-Olo Brown, 2-Anton Oliver, 1-Craig Dowd.

SPORTS

in brief

Welsh intern'l Hughes joins Southampton

LONDON (Reuters) — Chelsea striker Mark Hughes completed a £650,000 move to Premier League rivals Southampton yesterday.

The Welsh international, whose former clubs include Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, has agreed to a two-year deal.

Bills coach Elijah Pitts at age 60

BUFFALO (Reuters) — Buffalo Bills long-time running backs coach Elijah Pitts died Friday after a long battle with intestinal cancer. He was 60.

Pitts, who spent 16 seasons as an assistant coach with the NFL team, played for the Green Bay Packers from 1961 to 1969 and scored the first rushing touchdown in Super Bowl history in 1967. He played on four NFL Championship teams and two Super Bowl winners, under Vince Lombardi at Green Bay.

UEFA revamps Champions' League

LONDON (Reuters) — Europe's leading soccer clubs face more fixture congestion after UEFA agreed to changes to the format of the lucrative Champions' League on Friday.

Under the proposals, approved by European soccer's executive committee in Paris, the current 24-team format will be retained but with four groups of six teams from 1999-2000 rather than the current six groups of four.

It means each of the 24 teams will play 10 group games instead of six, significantly boosting the income they can expect from television rights and prize money.

The top two teams in each group will qualify for the two-legged quarter-final stage, but, in another change, the semi-finals, previously played over two legs, will be played as a single match on a neutral venue.

Man hangs self over World Cup bet

HANOI (AP) — A sugar mill owner hanged himself after losing his business on a World Cup bet yesterday. It was the second suicide in Vietnam over a wager on the soccer tournament. The man staked his mill on Germany beating Croatia in the quarter-final, but the Croats scored a 3-0 upset.

A 24-year-old man hanged himself after losing his motorcycle on the Germany-Yugoslavia match.

Bradman breaks silence for birthday wish

SYDNEY (AP) — Reclusive Australian cricket hero Sir Donald Bradman made a rare media appearance this week to wish former English rival Sir Alec Bessie a happy birthday.

Bessie and his twin brother Eric turned 80 on Monday and Sir Alec was reunited with Bradman courtesy of a call, which was broadcast on Sydney radio Friday.

Bradman reminisced about the time Bessie dismissed him for nought in the 1946-47 Ashes series.

Griffey smashes 37th HR to tie McGwire; Sosa cracks 35th

SEATTLE (Reuters, AP) — Seattle superstar Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 37th home run Friday to draw even with the Cardinals' Mark McGwire in the assault on Roger Maris's home run record of 61, but it was Jim Edmonds' single with one out in the top of the 11th that was the difference as the Anaheim Angels posted a 5-3 victory over the Mariners.

Yankees & Devil Rays 4
Visiting New York won its eighth straight, getting three-run homers by Chuck Knoblauch and Scott Brosius.

The Yankees improved the top record in the majors to 63-20, winning for the 13th time in 15 games. New York kept pace with the 1902 Pittsburgh Pirates for the best start this century through 83 games.

Indians 6, Twins 5
David Justice had an RBI single off Greg Swindell with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth for Cleveland.

Orioles 3, Red Sox 2
Eric Davis homered off Pedro Martinez in the eighth inning to

snap a tie and lift Baltimore to a home win.

Martinez (11-3), vying for his sixth straight victory, allowed three runs and five hits in eight innings.

White Sox 10, Royals 3
Albert Belle homered twice and matched a career high with six RBIs as Chicago won at home.

It was the 31st multihomer game of Belle's career, and fourth this season.

Tigers 3, Blue Jays 2 (10)
Deivi Cruz's 10th-inning RBI double pushed Detroit to a home victory.

Rangers 1, Athletics 0
Kevin Elster drew a two-out bases-loaded walk from closer Billy Taylor (3-7) in the top of the ninth and Rick Helling tied for the major-league lead in wins.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Marlins 3, Braves 1
Jesus Sanchez and host Florida snapped Atlanta's nine-game winning streak.

Phillies 7, Pirates 6
Curt Schilling withstood a five-run inning and an unusually low

five strikeouts by helping himself with a key run-scoring single, leading Philadelphia to a road win.

Expos 8, Mets 6
Mark Grudzielanek beat out a two-out single to tie it and Shane Andrews followed with a two-run triple as the Montreal Expos rallied in the top of the ninth inning and sent New York to its fifth straight loss.

Cardinals 6, Astros 3
Brian Jordan's RBI single off Jay Powell snapped an eighth-inning tie as St. Louis won at home.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5
Chicago's Kerry Wood struck out nine, but hit three batters — including Mark Loretta with the bases loaded to break a seventh-inning tie — as Milwaukee notched a home win.

Sammy Sosa hit his 35th homer in the second inning, joining Ernie Banks as the only players in Cubs history to hit at least that many homers in four consecutive seasons.

Rockies 11, Giants 2
Darryl Kile won at Coors Field

for the first time this season, helping Colorado end a five-game losing streak.

Reds 5, Diamondbacks 4
Brett Tomko pitched seven shutout innings and won his fourth straight start as visiting Cincinnati

picked up where it left off at the All-Star break.

Dodgers 6, Padres 2
Gold Glove third baseman Ken Caminiti's throwing error keyed Los Angeles' five-run rally in the bottom of the eighth inning.

National League
East Division: W L Pct. GB
Atlanta 40 39 .467 —
New York 41 41 .518 1 1/2
Philadelphia 44 42 .512 1 1/2
Montreal 36 52 .409 23
Florida 33 54 .371 26 1/2
Central Division: W L Pct. GB
Houston 54 35 .607 —
Chicago 48 41 .539 6
Milwaukee 45 42 .517 8
St. Louis 41 47 .466 12 1/2
Pittsburgh 40 49 .449 14
Cincinnati 40 50 .444 14 1/2
West Division: W L Pct. GB
San Diego 57 33 .633 —
San Francisco 52 38 .578 5
Los Angeles 45 44 .506 11 1/2
Colorado 38 52 .422 19
Arizona 30 59 .337 26 1/2

American League
East Division: W L Pct. GB
New York 63 20 .759 —
Boston 52 35 .598 13
Toronto 46 44 .511 20 1/2
Baltimore 40 50 .444 26 1/2
Tampa Bay 34 54 .386 31 1/2
Central Division: W L Pct. GB
Cleveland 51 36 .586 —
Minnesota 41 47 .466 10 1/2
Kansas City 39 49 .443 12 1/2
Detroit 36 50 .419 14 1/2
Chicago 36 52 .409 15 1/2
West Division: W L Pct. GB
 Anaheim 50 38 .568 —
 Texas 50 39 .562 1/2
 Oakland 41 47 .466 9
 Seattle 38 52 .422 13

Thursday's A.L. results: Texas 4, Oakland 1; Detroit 4, Toronto 3; Minnesota 3, Cleveland 0; N.Y. 2, Tampa Bay 0; Baltimore 3, Boston 2; Kansas City 6, Chicago 4; Seattle 8, Anaheim 6; Anaheim 6, Anaheim 6; Los Angeles 12, San Diego 3; Atlanta 6, Florida 4; Milwaukee 12, Chicago 9; Houston 5, St. Louis 4; Montreal 9, N.Y. 8 (11).

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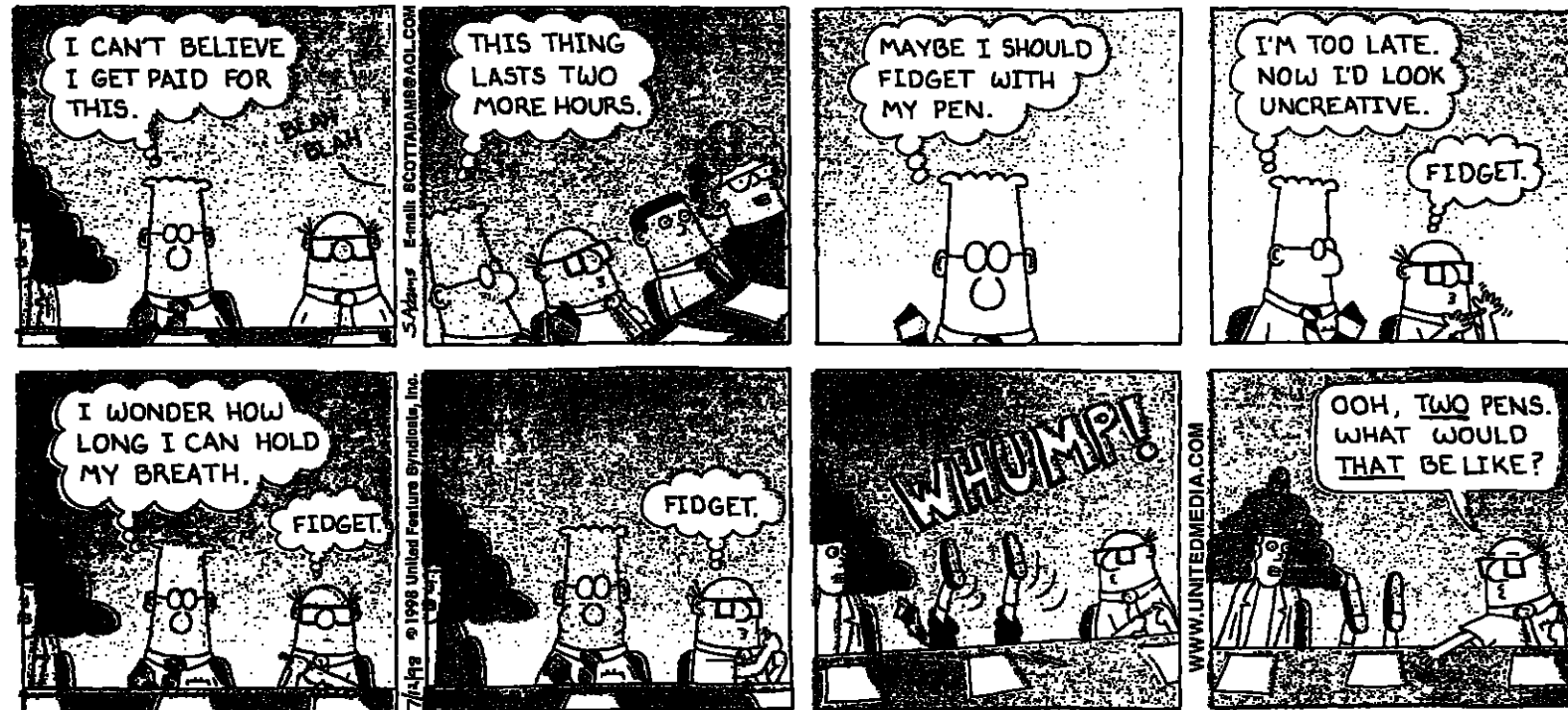
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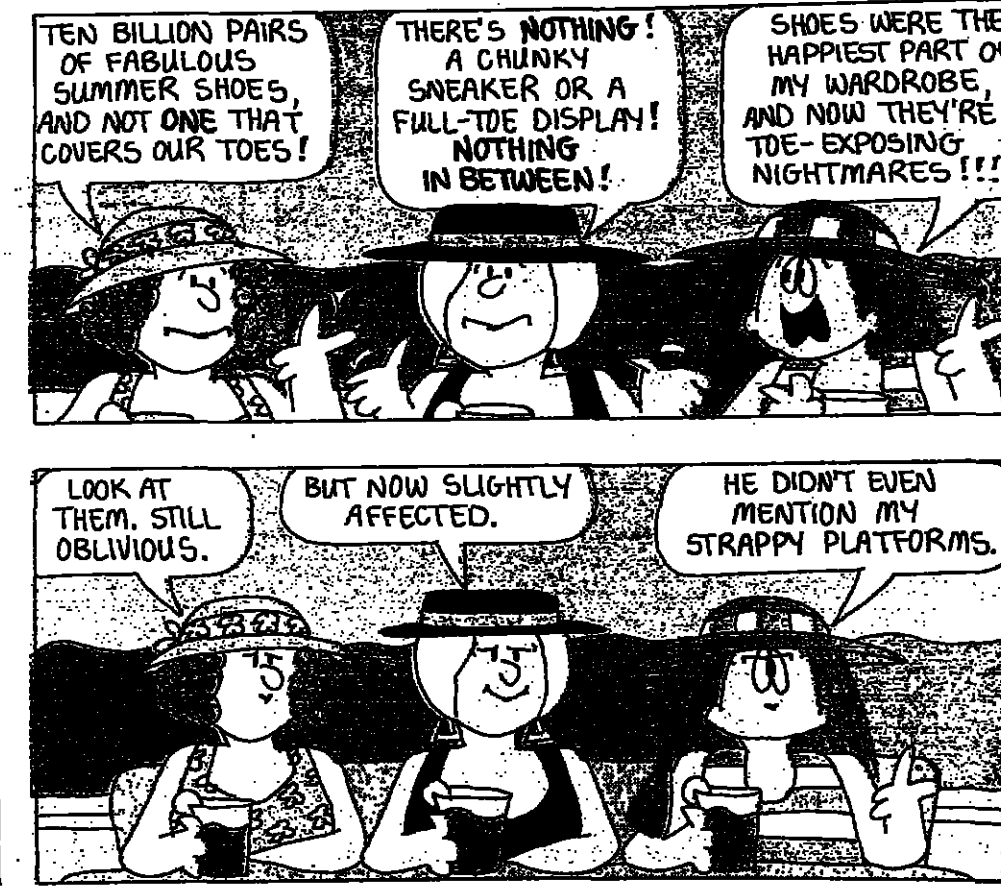
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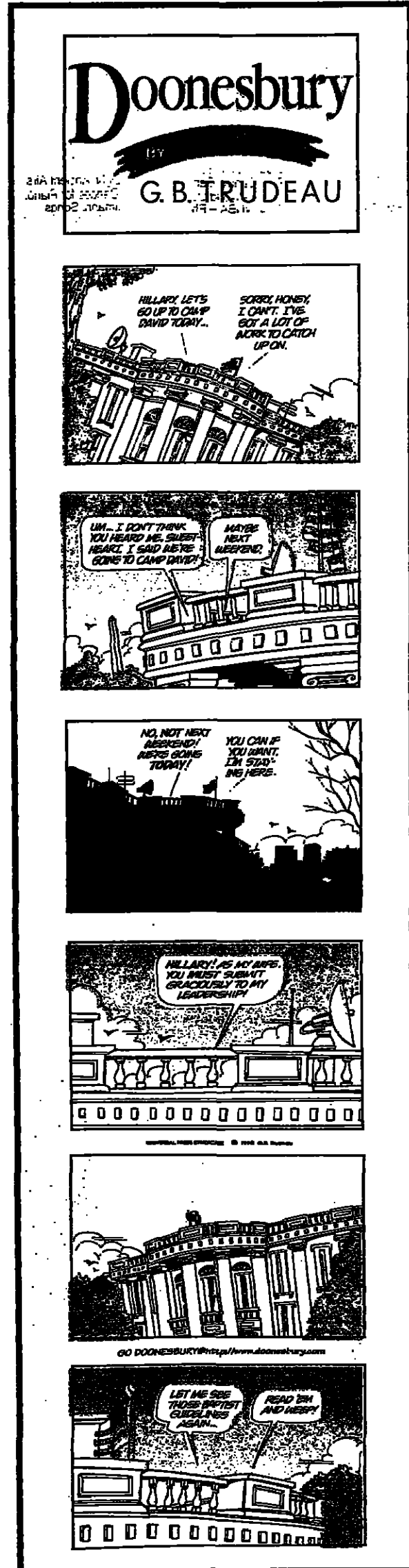
CATHY



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Calvin and Hobbes by Watterson



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Wallabies
topple
All Blacks

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Klinger retires
from soccer

By ORI LEWIS

Nir Klinger, Israel's most-capped international soccer player, announced his retirement over the weekend. He will now pursue a coaching role with his club, Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Klinger, 32, who played 84 times in national colors until he announced his retirement from the international game in April last year, has decided to quit because of a long-term back injury which will require several months to heal. He will assist coach Avraham Grant as Maccabi attempt to regain a semblance of their good form.

"There is no point in me playing and being unable to give less than 100 percent, so I prefer to help on the coaching side and assist with the young players coming through the ranks," Klinger said yesterday. Last season, Maccabi suffered their worst showing ever in the National League for a while languishing in the relegation zone, before recovering to finish sixth.

Goodes returns

Maccabi Tel Aviv wasted no time shoring up its guard rotation. Just one day after Oded Katash's formal announcement of his intent to play in the NBA next season, former Maccabi guard Guy Goodes met with coach Yoram Harush, and it appears that the national team vet will return to the blue and yellow for the 1998-99 campaign.

Goodes, who has had two career-threatening knee injuries, played for Juventus Caserta in the Italian League's second division last season. (Eli Groner)

Two billion eyes focus on World Cup final



ALL TOGETHER NOW - Brazilian players (left to right) Ze Carlos, Emerson, Rivaldo and Dunga stretch during a training session in preparation for today's final.

PARIS (AP) - Imagine if the Super Bowl, Final Four, Kentucky Derby and Daytona 500 were all held on the same day.

Add nationalism, the fervor of fans whose outlook on life often depends on the outcome, and the realization this day won't come again for four years.

That's the World Cup final: a game, a celebration, an obsession. "It is the game of the century," Brazil coach Mario Zagallo says of his team's matchup today with France at the space-age Stade de France outside Paris.

"It is the game we all have dreamed of," adds French defender Lilian Thuram.

More than a billion people will watch on television as Brazil goes for its fifth championship - nobody else has more than three - and France seeks its first in the tournament it created in the 1930s.

Brazil certainly has history on its side: It is the only team to win the title outside its hemisphere. And when it did so in 1958, it beat host Sweden in the final.

Zagallo was there, as a player. He also played for the 1962 champions, and was coach of the 1970 winner. Four years ago, he was an assistant to Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"He has what we call in Brazil 'hot feet,'" says Pele, the game's all-time greatest player and a winner of three championships. "The luck follows Mario Zagallo."

It certainly helps that he is Brazilian. No matter where the World Cup is held, Brazil is a contender, often a favorite. It entered this tournament as the odds-on choice and nothing has changed. Not even with the final against the host nation.

"In the stadium there will be 80,000 fans cheering for France," Zagallo says. "But our players know that when they walk onto the field, in their hearts 160 million Brazilians will be walking with them."

Besides, the French haven't felt the waves of support in the new stadium that they expected.

"There are too many people inside the stadium in suits," captain Didier Deschamps says. "We do not get a great feeling of support. The people who could have made the difference are outside."

You could see our substitutes trying to motivate the crowd.

"I just hope they'll wake up for the final. We don't want to hear the sound of samba for 90 minutes."

To combat that, the French must remain tough on defense. Brazil will attack all game, trying to penetrate on the flanks with Rivaldo, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio and Bebeto. Or through the middle with two-time player of the year Ronaldo.

France, meanwhile, might back

off its assaults a bit, because a truly wide-open game favors the South Americans. And the French will be without their best defender, Laurent Blanc, who was suspended for shoving a Croat in the face in the semifinals.

"It is my personal catastrophe, but if the red card had contributed to France not reaching the final, I would never have been able to forgive myself," Blanc says.

The French can be forgiven if they are nervous today. They've never been this far, they are facing the defending champion and soccer's most powerful force, and Brazil improved as it advanced through the tournament.

"We are peaking at the right time to win the World Cup," midfielder Rivaldo says.

Still, it took a penalty kick shootout for the Brazilians to get

here. The Dutch played them even for 120 minutes, and at times outplayed them.

Of course, the Netherlands looked as strong as anyone in the field before its semifinal loss. The French haven't met anyone as balanced or dangerous.

Not that France drew a pass to get into the final. It won all three of its first-round games before struggling to beat Paraguay 1-0 in overtime and Italy in a shootout.

In the semifinals, Croatia scored in the first minute of the second half, but Thuram came right back with a goal, then got the winner.

In Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff, the French have two reliable playmakers. What they have lacked is a finishing touch, with only defenders hitting the net since the opening round.

With Blanc gone, they probably

won't push the defenders upfield - unless they fall behind.

The last two World Cup finals were dull affairs, with West Germany beating Argentina 1-0 on a penalty kick with six minutes left in 1990, and Brazil needing a shootout to defeat Italy after a 0-0 tie in 1994.

The last time Brazil met France in the World Cup was 12 years ago, a classic offensive match with enough action in 120 minutes to satisfy anyone. It also ended in a shootout, which France won 4-3.

"We will take a similar result," Thuram says.

Zagallo, however, is extremely confident that won't happen. "I've never been so sure that we're going to win the title," he says. "The green and yellow flag will fly again in Europe after 40 years. The World Cup is safe in our hands."

Suker goal
gives Croatia
third place

PARIS (Reuters) - Davor Suker piloted Croatia to third place in their first World Cup yesterday with a neat goal in a 2-1 win over the Netherlands which made him top marksman of the tournament with just the final to come.

Suker's cool strike in the 36th minute at the Parc des Princes hoisted his tally for the tournament to six goals, one more than his nearest rivals and two more than Brazil's Ronaldo.

Croatia, quick on the counter-attack, caught the Dutch defense napping with two slick passing moves in a lively first half which brought goals for Robert Prosinecki and Suker.

Prosinecki claimed the first goal in the 13th minute. Suker sent Robert Jarai away and the adventurous defender swung clear of Jaap Stam and slipped the ball out right to Prosinecki.

The blond-haired midfielder, back in the starting line-up for the first time since the group matches, evaded the attentions of three Dutch defenders and neatly planted his shot into the net.

Winger Boudewijn Zenden pulled the Dutch level in the 21st minute with his first international goal, capping a great run through the Croatian defense with a fierce left-foot shot.

But 15 minutes later Croatia were in front again with another superb attack.

Aljosa Asanovic got the move going and supplied a pass for captain Zvonimir Boban, who in turn fed Suker.

Suker, coolness personified on the left in the box, drove a left-foot shot through the legs of the hapless Stam into the far corner to go one goal ahead of Italy's Christian Vieri and Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta at the top of the World Cup scorers' table.

Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf got the ball in the net in the 54th minute but the effort was disallowed for offside.

Kluivert and Seedorf had two chances towards the end of the game but failed to convert them.

Tour de France begins
amid drug scandalBoardman wins Dublin prologue; Festina team
masseur arrested with cache of steroids

DUBLIN (AP) - Speed specialist Chris Boardman of Britain won yesterday's prologue of the 85th Tour de France, but the Irish start to the world's greatest cycling race was overshadowed by a drug scandal involving France's top-rated Festina team.

Boardman coasted to victory on the 3.5-mile (5.6 km) route through central Dublin in a time of 6 minutes, 12.36 seconds, more than four seconds better than the second-place finisher, Spain's Abraham Olano.

France's Laurent Jalabert, the world time trial champion, was third, five seconds behind Jalabert. Defending Tour champion Jan Ullrich of Germany was sixth, also five seconds behind.

It was Boardman's third victory in five years in the Tour's prologue.

The gentle rainfall so common to the Emerald Isle affected the first half of the race, deterring some riders from aggressively taking the two sharpest corners early on in the speed circuit.

But the course had completely dried out when Boardman - who also won the prologues of 1994 and 1997 - rolled down the starting ramp. He never hesitated from the start and sailed down the city's broad O'Connell Street to the finish line beyond the city's landmark General Post Office.

Festina put in the strongest team performance, with three riders in the top 10, but found itself on the defensive over the arrest of one of its support staff in France.

French media reported that Willy Voet, a Belgian masseur, was arrested Thursday on the French-Belgian border in possession of more than 400 vials of steroids and the performance-enhancing drug EPO, which is considered the cycling world's favored drug.

It boosts the level of red-blood cells, enabling cyclists to absorb oxygen more effectively.

One of Festina's unexpectedly strong performances came from unheralded Christophe Moreau, who led for much of the competition and finished fifth with a time of 6:17.32. He was competing while petitioning his positive test



FLYING START - Britain's Chris Boardman clocks the best time in yesterday's Tour de France prologue.

for steroid use at another race in June.

Festina's director, Bruno Roussel, said he knew nothing about the incident but would find out what happened when the Tour returns to France tomorrow night.

More than 30,000 hard-core fans and curiosity-seekers, virtually none of them aware of the Festina scandal, lined the route to see the first Tour de France ever to touch down on Irish soil.

Fans of certain countries or particular riders staked their spot along the barriers of O'Connell Street from early morning.

Many hung flags from the railings or painted their faces to register their sympathies.

Copious volumes of stout and lagers ensured a convivial atmosphere as the cyclists rolled off the starting ramp, in one-minute intervals, outside Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university.

B&H Cup
final may
be decided
by bowl out

LONDON (Reuters) - The last Benson and Hedges Cup final may have to be decided by a "bowl out" indoors after rain forced the clash between Essex and Leicestershire yesterday to be carried over into a second day.

With more bad weather forecast for today, there were fears that the showpiece final at Lord's might have to be decided by five bowlers from each side aiming two deliveries at a single stump.

That would be a highly unsatisfactory end to the competition which is being scrapped as part of a restructuring of English domestic cricket.

Essex had just finished their allotted 50 overs on 268 for seven when rain began to fall. No further play was possible.

McGwire wins
it with 38th

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Mark McGwire snapped a homeless drought that had reached 21 at-bats with a two-run, 11th-inning shot into the upper deck as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Houston Astros 4-3 yesterday.

McGwire regained the major league home run lead with No. 38, one more than Ken Griffey Jr. of Seattle. He hit an 0-2 pitch from Billy Wagner (2-3) an estimated 485 feet, and above the Big Mac section for his first home run since June 30.

In other NL action, it was Cubs 11, Brewers 8.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

Orion 2, Red Sox 1.

Scott Erickson allowed four hits in 8 1/3 innings and Joe Carter homered as host Baltimore won its third straight over Boston.

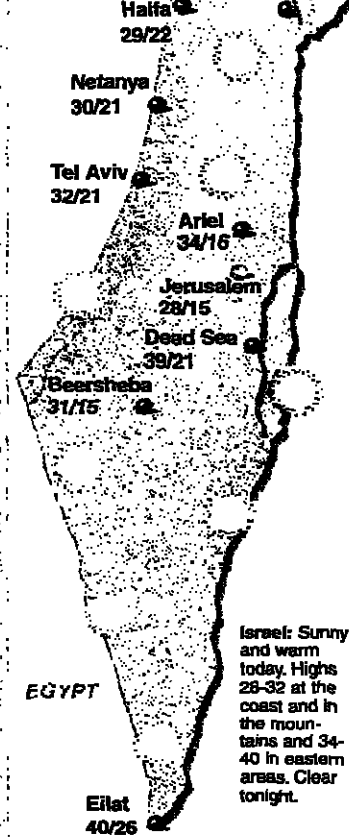
Indians 12, Twins 2.

Brian Giles hit his first homer in nearly two months and drove in four runs, and Dwight Gooden outpitched All-Star Brad Radke as Cleveland won at home. Travis Fryman hit his 16th homer.

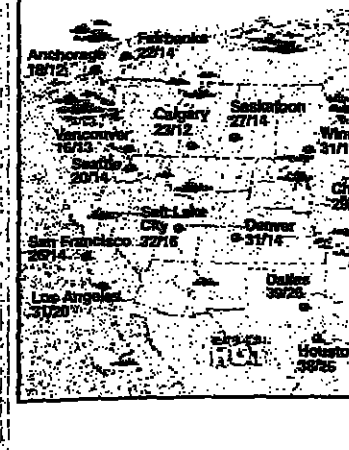
AIR CANADA
Noon lunch at Fisherman's Wharf?
AIR CANADA will get you there in time.
Lv-TLV 1:30 a.m. Arr-SF 11:30 a.m. same day

THE
WEATHER

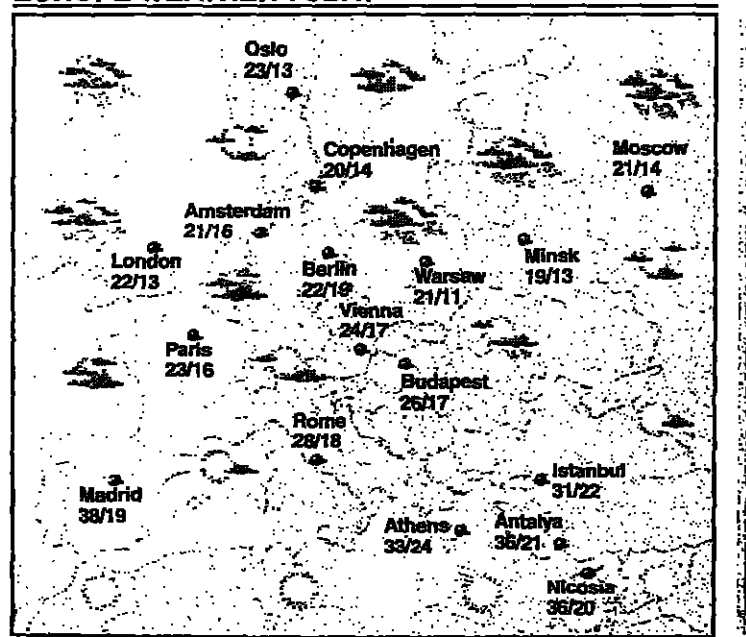
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES				Monday				Tuesday				Wednesday			
City	High	Low	W	High	Low	W	High	Low	W	High	Low	High	Low	W	High
Haifa	24/32	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57	16/24	35/57
Tel Aviv	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21	22/12	30/21
Jerusalem	28/15	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21	15/05	30/21
Beer Sheva	31/15	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21	21/05	30/21

INTERNATIONAL CITIES				Monday				Tuesday				Wednesday			
City	High	Low	W	High	Low	W	High	Low	W	High	Low	High	Low	W	High
London	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13	12/03	22/13
Paris	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16	12/06	22/16
Rome	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18	18/08	28/18
Moscow	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19	28/09	38/19

سورة التين